Entertainment / A2-1
4 Filipino films to be shown at Cannes Film Festival today

■ Business / B1
Gov't posts P3.3-B budget surplus in April, the first time in 4 years

■ News / A2
PPI plan holders ask Makati RTC judge to inhibit self from case

■ World / A13
Physical abuse drove Indon maids to kill Singapore employer, say lawyers

■ Metro / A23
Willie Revillame sent flowers, apologized, says alleged victim

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Friday, May 20, 2005 ★★ 76 pages / 10 sections / Vol. 20 / No. 161 P18

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Gov: Link to jueteng bad but calling me fatso too much

MASAKIT MATAWAG NA TABATSOY!

By Marlon Ramos
PDI S. Luzon Bureau

CALAMBA CITY—Who are you calling fatso?

Batangas Gov. Armando Sanchez is annoyed, not only because he was

GOV/ A22

Villar still richest in House; 2 Arroyos on millionaires list

By Michael Lim Ubac

TWO ARROYOS are among the richest members of Congress.

Negros Occidental Rep. Ignacio "Iggy" Arroyo and his nephew, Pampanga Rep. Juan Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo, are on the list of the top 20 multimillionaire members of the

VILLAR/ A21

'Worst scandal' to hit GMA

Ping cites reason jueteng operators spilling the beans

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

OPPOSITION Sen. Panfilo Lacson yesterday said disgruntled "jueteng" operators were coming out because Rodolfo "Bong" Pineda, alleged Pampanga gambling lord, had taken over jueteng operations in different provinces.

"He should be summoned [to the investigation]. He is the biggest motivating factor why these people are coming out,'" Lacson said.

Lacson said five jueteng operators had approached him and he had secured the sworn affidavits of three of them. He expressed confidence there would be no repeat of the "Udong Mahusay" misadventure when his witness against First Gentleman Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo in the Jose Pidal exposé retracted his accusation after being snatched from a safe house by then Housing Secretary Michael Defensor.

"There are others who want to come out. I don't know what they will say but they said they will give substantial information. We're trying to arrange a meeting with them," he said.

But Lacson denied that he was behind the three jueteng lords and bagmen who spoke to

PING/ A22

EDWIN BAGASMAS

ACCUSED of cheating the government out of taxes, Regine Velasquez is right up there in the seat of government on Wednesday night during a Palace dinner for the entertainment press hosted by the head of government.

Mike A, Mikey strongly deny involvement in illegal gambling

By Michael Lim Ubac
and Christine O. Avendaño

THE FIRST FAMILY was up and about early yesterday to deal with allegations by three persons that they had given or collected "jueteng" protection money for President Macapagal-Arroyo's husband, Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo, and their elder son, Pampanga Rep. Juan Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo.

Admitting that this was the "worst scandal" to hit his mother's administration, Mikey Arroyo said "one of the ways to get to [the President] is to destroy the credibility of her family.

"And I think that's what's happening now," he said, adding that the allegations were "part of a black propaganda campaign."

The neophyte lawmaker disclosed at a hastily called press conference at noon in the House of Representatives that he was roused from sleep at 6 a.m. "I stayed in Malacañang [Wednesday night]. The nanny woke me up [saying], 'Sir, GMA and your father want to see you,'" he recalled.

The young Arroyo said his parents wanted him to immediately face House reporters "so that I could be given a chance to air my side."

"I'm denying the allegations," he told reporters. "I've never received any bribe and I'm not a jueteng protector. I welcome any probe to get to the bottom of this. I urge the witnesses to come out in the open."

He said he would resign his post should it be proved that he had received jueteng money.

WORST/ A22

Church admits taking jueteng money in the past

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

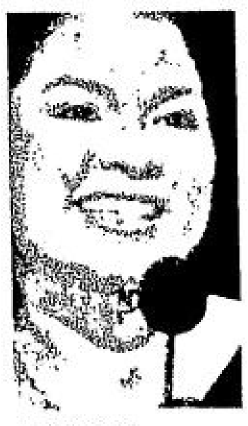
CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Yes, some priests in Pampanga used to receive or solicit money from "jueteng" lords for the construction of churches and charity projects.

But, according to a local priest, the practice had been stopped after extensive debates within the clergy.

A ranking Church official, who requested anonymity, the other day denounced some priests for allowing themselves to be tainted by "donations" from jueteng lords in Pampanga. President Macapagal-Arroyo's home province has been dubbed by Senate Minority

CHURCH/ A22

BIR hits Juday with P6.7-M case



JUDY ANN SANTOS: Krystala to the rescue?

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

By Cynthia D. Balana

FIRST, it was actor Richard Gomez. Next came singer Regine Velasquez. Yesterday, it was the turn of television soap opera queen Judy Ann Santos, popularly known as "Juday."

From the looks of it, more show biz personalities will be facing criminal charges for tax evasion.

In yet another warning to erring taxpayers in show business, the Bureau of Internal Revenue yesterday filed with the Department of Justice tax evasion charges against Santos for allegedly underdeclaring her income in 2002 by P6.7 million.

Following the filing of charges against Santos, Revenue Commissioner Guillermo Parayno said the BIR had found "very low compliance" when the agency studied the 2003 tax declarations of 40 movie stars and show biz personalities.

Some 92.5 percent of these movie personalities paid only between zero and 1.5 percent tax on their gross incomes. They typically claimed "unreasonable deductions," Parayno said.

"These are really very bad compliance rates, and we have to do something very drastic," he said.

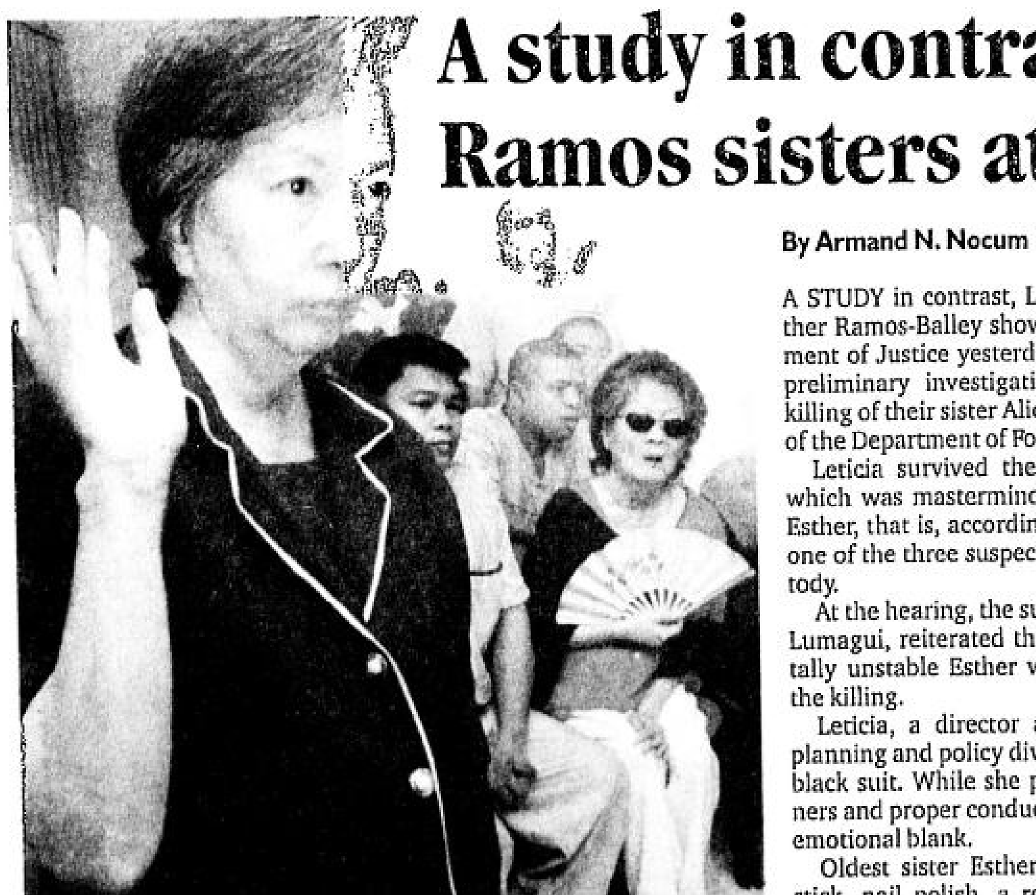
In the case of Santos, a legal team from the BIR and the Department of Finance said the actress had declared that her combined earnings in 2002 from ABS-CBN television network, Viva Productions and Star Cinema amounted to only P8 million.

But BIR records showed that Santos actu-

BIR/ A21

BULLIT MARQUEZ/AP

MAKEOVER. After four years in an Olongapo hospice after she was wrongly deported from Australia, Filipino-Australian Vivian Alvarez comes to a press conference in Makati on Thursday all made up with flaming red nail polish to boot, a new dress and a new lease on life. *(Story on Page A2.)*



ERIK ARAZAS

ESTHER BALLEY (behind in dark glasses) is restless as her sister Leticia is severe while taking her oath before a Department of Justice panel conducting the preliminary investigation of the murder of their sister Alicia.

A study in contrast: Ramos sisters at DOJ

By Armand N. Nocum

A STUDY in contrast, Leticia Ramos and Esther Ramos-Balley showed up at the Department of Justice yesterday for the start of the preliminary investigation of the gruesome killing of their sister Alicia, assistant secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs.

Leticia survived the attack on April 24, which was masterminded by her own sister Esther, that is, according to the confession of one of the three suspected killers now in custody.

At the hearing, the suspect, Roberto "Obet" Lumagui, reiterated that the obviously mentally unstable Esther was the brains behind the killing.

Leticia, a director at the DFA's strategic planning and policy division, was austere in a black suit. While she personified good manners and proper conduct, Leticia's face was an emotional blank.

Oldest sister Esther Balley, 65, wore lipstick, nail polish, a red blouse and fuschia slides. Often gesticulating and making faces at more than 10 clinical staff members of the Saint Claire Hospital, where she is being treated for manic-depressive illness, according to her doctor, Esther was observed either murmuring to herself or talking animatedly

A STUDY/ A21

Los Baños mayor asked to help Boracay

By Blanche S. Rivera
and Marlon Ramos
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

THE DEPARTMENT of Environment and Natural Resources has tapped the services of a Laguna mayor, who is also a solid waste management expert, to help address the garbage crisis on Boracay.

DENR Secretary Michael Defensor said Mayor Cesar Perez of Los Baños town would assist in crafting a strategy for waste disposal in the country's premier island resort.

"He will be our consultant and strategist. He is responsible for the best and one of most successful garbage segregation schemes in the Philippines," Defensor said in a phone interview.

When reached by the INQUIRER last night, however, Perez said he had turned down the offer.

"I told the secretary that much as I want to help Boracay, I just cannot assume the position because I'm still the mayor of Los Baños," he said.

Perez's assignment came on the heels of warnings issued by Tourism Secretary Joseph Durano early this week that Boracay might lose its natural attractions—crystal-clear waters and fine white-

LOS BAÑOS/ A6

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms mostly in the afternoon or evening.

COMPILED BY: CYRIL L. BONABENTE, PDI RESEARCH/05/20/05 SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

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Second FRONTPAGE

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Meralco to hike rates by 80.5¢

By Abigail L. Ho

WITH the ratification of the value-added tax (VAT) bill, Manila Electric Co. customers may have to pay an additional 80.56 centavos per kilowatt-hour (kWh) after the new law takes effect.

Based on Meralco estimates using its April sales figures, the firm's vice president and utility economics head Ivanna de la Peña placed the impact of the 10-percent VAT on Meralco rates at 70.25 centavos per kWh.

With the removal, however, of the 2-percent national franchise tax, pegged at 13.71 centavos per kWh, the net VAT on Meralco rates would be 56.55 centavos per kWh.

But since the National Power Corp.'s generation charge would also be subject to the 10-percent VAT, NPC's recent rate adjustment to 46.96 centavos per kWh in Luzon would rise to 51.66 centavos per kWh.

Meralco customers, however, will not have to bear the full brunt of the Napocor rate hike since Meralco sources only about half of its supply requirements from Napocor.

The effect of the Napocor rate increase on Meralco's rates, therefore, was placed at 24.01 centavos per kWh.

Adding the 56.55-centavo VAT on Meralco and the 24.01-centavo portion of the Napocor rate hike, the total impact of the 10-percent VAT on power end-users comes to 80.56 centavos per kWh.

This means that for households consuming 200 kWh of electricity a month, the VAT is estimated at P167.49.

Using the April billing of P1,454.77 as reference, the bill reflecting the VAT would go up to P1,622.26.

For households consuming 100 kWh or less, however, the lifeline rate discount would mitigate the impact of the VAT.

Households with a monthly consumption of 50 kWh or less would still be entitled to a 50-percent discount; those consuming 51-70 kWh to a 35-percent markdown, and those using 71-100 kWh to a 20-percent discount.

As a result, instead of paying a VAT-reflective bill of P640.06, customers consuming 71-100 kWh of electricity would only have to pay P635, enjoying a discount of P5.06.

Those consuming 51-70 kWh a month would pay P6.20 less at P356.07, while those consuming 50 kWh or less would shell out P6.32 less at P191.02.

The April rate was pegged at P7.16 per kWh overall—P7.57 per kWh for residential customers, P7.30 per kWh for commercial customers and P6.41 per kWh for industrial users.

The generation charge accounts for the biggest chunk of a monthly electricity bill at 70 percent, followed by the distribution charge at 16 percent, transmission charge at 13 percent, and universal charge and franchise tax at 2.7 percent.

The rate hike as a result of the 10-percent VAT could still be mitigated if Meralco's independent power producers run at minimum energy quantities (MEQ) or at levels of around 83.3 percent.

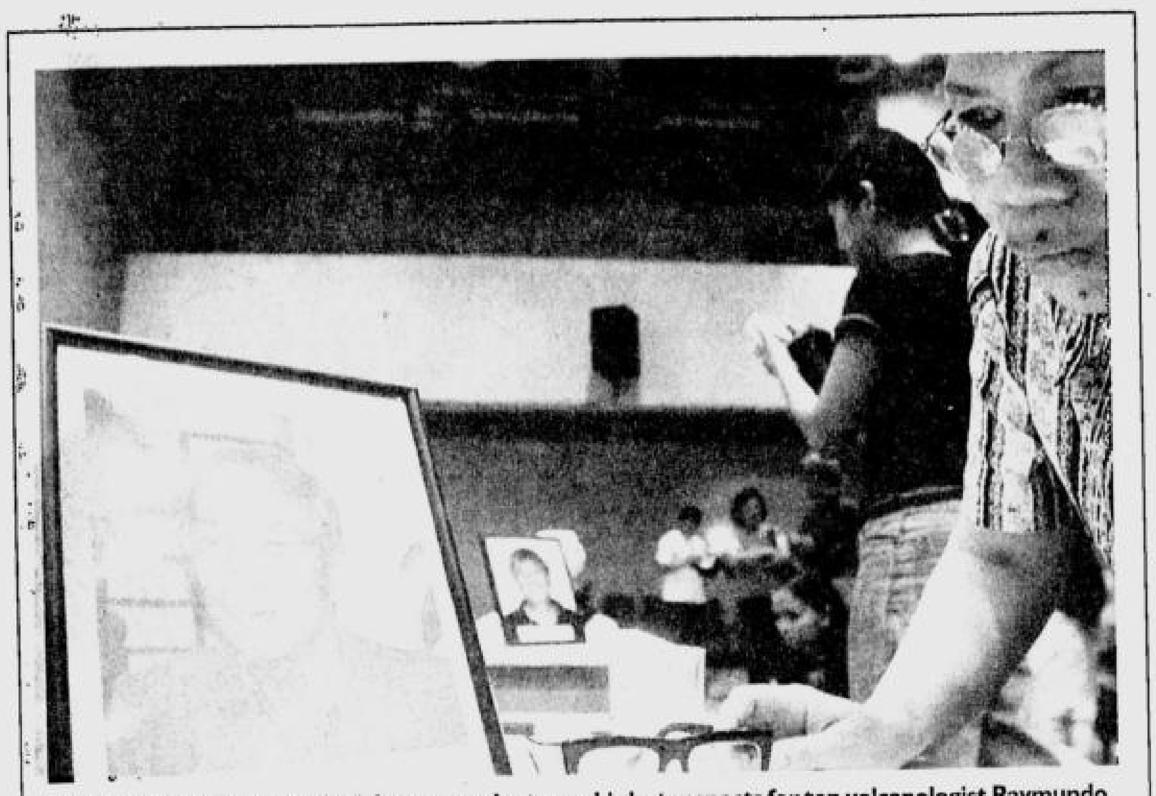
With Meralco's IPPs running at 83.3-percent, De la Peña said the IPP average generation cost for the month of May would only be around P4.22 per kWh. The Napocor average, on the other hand, would go up to around P4.65 per kWh, minus the VAT.

Taking the average Napocor and IPP generation rates, the average generation cost charge that Meralco would likely incur in May would be P4.38 per kWh, leading to an end-user impact of only 6.02 centavos per kWh, instead of the estimated 21.83 centavos per kWh with the IPPs running at a capacity factor of only 78.8 percent.

At present, Meralco's Sta. Rita and San Lorenzo IPPs are running at levels beyond the MEQ.

The 1,000-megawatt (MW) Sta. Rita and the 500-MW San Lorenzo natural gas-fired power plants are now running at a combined capacity of around 1,450 MW.

First Generation Holdings Corp. president and chief operating officer Federico Lopez said Meralco consumers could expect lower rates if the two plants continued to run beyond MEQ levels.



LAST RESPECTS FOR RAY. A former student pays his last respects for top volcanologist Raymundo Punongbayan, who died along with eight others in a helicopter crash recently. With their charred remains identified through DNA testing, the victims' ashes were brought to the University of the Philippines campus in Diliman where a Mass was celebrated for them. JOAN BONDOC

Bad weather blamed for Punongbayan crash

BAD WEATHER and the pilot's unfamiliarity with the terrain in Gabaldon, Nueva Ecija caused a military helicopter to crash last month, killing geo-scientist Raymundo Punongbayan and eight others on board, the Philippine Air Force said yesterday.

Air Force investigators also recommended lifting an order that temporarily grounded the entire fleet of UH-1H Huey Vietnam War-vintage helicopters, the air force's workhorse.

"Accident investigators revealed that unfavorable and unpredictable weather conditions over Gabaldon at that time, aggravated by the pilot's unfamiliarity with the terrain was the primary cause of the crash," the PAF said, citing reports from the Air Force Safety Office.

Lt. Col. Restituto Padilla, PAF spokesperson, said technical teams from the 410th Maintenance Wing and the 205th Tactical Helicopter Wing conducted a teardown inspection of the engine and "concluded there was nothing wrong with the engine at the time of the crash."

Punongbayan, a Philippine Red Cross official and former chief government volcanologist who has been hailed as a hero for saving thousands of lives with his early warning of the massive eruption of Mt. Pinatubo in June 1991, was instantly killed along with eight others when their chopper crashed on April 28.

Also killed were Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology chief geologist Dr. Norman Tungol, Dr. Jessie Daligdig, researchers Dindo Javier and Orland Abengoza, 1st Lt. Reynaldo Gerrodias, co-pilot 1st Lt. Jason Salazar, and Staff Sergeants Edgar Ramolete and Wilbert Tacatac.

The ill-fated Huey was among the eight choppers the PAF had received second-hand from the United States under its Excess Defense Article Program last January 2002. *With reports from Dona Pazzibugan and AP*

Deported Fil-Aussie woman won't sue

A FILIPINO-BORN Australian woman who was wrongly deported from Australia four years ago indicated Thursday she may not sue the Australian government if it agrees to pay her medical bills and other costs.

Harry Freedman, an Australian lawyer who is representing Vivian Alvarez, said in Manila that she wants to return to her adopted country of Australia, but was concerned about costs.

Asked whether Alvarez was considering a lawsuit against the Australian government, Freedman told a news conference: "We'd like to avoid that."

Alvarez hoped the government would arrange money for medical support, financial assistance and housing for her in Australia, Freedman said.

Alvarez attended the news conference in a wheelchair, but didn't comment directly on her legal case.

Freedman, who is in Manila for consultations with Alvarez, said the Australian government had so far not offered her any compensation for her treatment.

Alvarez, 42, was deported from Australia in 2001 despite having lived there for 15 years and attained dual citizenship. She has two sons in Australia.

The government has since admitted that a mistake led to Alvarez's deportation, which closely followed a car accident that left her with apparent memory loss and other injuries. *AP*

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Judge asked to inhibit self from Pacific case

By Alcuin Papa

PACIFIC Plans Inc. plan holders yesterday asked a Makati City judge to inhibit himself from hearing the rehabilitation petition filed by PPI, saying the judge was a founding partner of the Villaraza and Angangco Law Office, the beleaguered pre-need firm's counsel.

The plan holders, who had banded themselves into the Parents Enabling Parents Coalition (PEP Coalition), also demanded the return of PPI's assets from a subsidiary, Lifetime Plans Inc., since the latter had not fully complied with the requirements of a registered corporation.

In a motion to inhibit filed before the sala of Judge Romeo Barza, PEP Coalition said Barza should "voluntarily inhibit himself to avoid the appearance of impropriety and to preserve his reputation for probity and objectivity."

PEP Coalition attached to its petition a letter from the Villaraza and Angangco Law Office dated April 23, 2003, and addressed to the Securities and Exchange Commission. In the letter, the law firm was writing to the SEC "on behalf of Pacific Plans Inc..."

Thus, the better option for Barza to take, the group said, would be "to disqualify himself. That way, he avoids being misunderstood, his reputation for probity and objectivity is preserved, the idea of an impartial administration of justice is lived up to, and due process is vindicated."

Villaraza and Angangco is known in legal circles as "The Firm" for its closeness to President Macapagal-Arroyo and First Gentleman Mike Arroyo. The INQUIRER tried but failed to get the comment of the law office.

PPI in April applied for rehabilitation before Barza's court, saying it would not be able to pay the tuition of its plan holders' children this school year due to liquidity problems. The company cited as reasons the rise in tuition rates and the economic crisis gripping the country.

Barza then issued a stay-order barring PPI from making any payments. The judge, however, allowed the company to shell out P341 million for the tuition of availing plan holders this year.

This week, PEP Coalition also filed its opposition to the rehabilitation plan. The group said the transfer of PPI's assets to Lifetime Plans Inc. was meant to place the assets out of the reach of the plan holders.

The SEC, in its comment filed this week, agreed, pointing out that PPI had no liquidity problems as the company had claimed.

Philip Piccio, PEP Coalition president and spokesperson, told reporters yesterday that based on their research, Lifetime "has not complied" with the basic requirements of the SEC for incorporation.

In a letter to SEC Chair Fe Barin, PEP said that in the SEC's procedure for registration of corporations, "all the application documents should be complete."

PEP also cited SEC's dissenting opinion to PPI's petition for rehabilitation pending in Barza's court.

But why Hotbabes' Del Rosario?

By Gil Cabacungan Jr. and TJ Burgonio

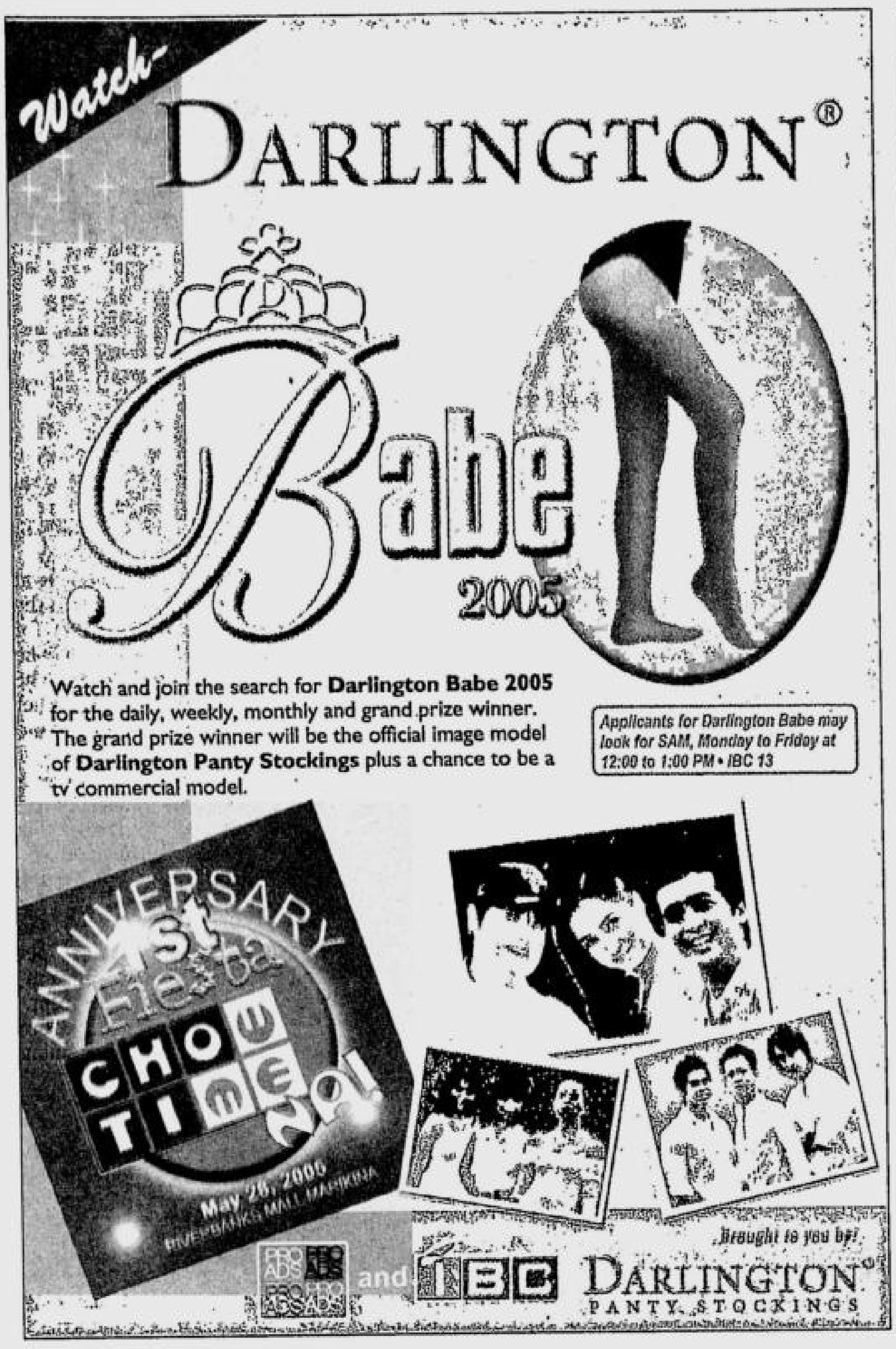
EXECUTIVE Secretary Eduardo Ermita was probably reading the wrong script when he announced the appointment of movie and record producer Vic del Rosario as presidential adviser on entertainment.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye clarified yesterday that Del Rosario's title was presidential consultant, and not adviser, which meant that the producer of President Macapagal-Arroyo's campaign showgirls, the "Viva Hotbabes," would not have a Cabinet rank.

Bunye claimed that when Ermita announced Del Rosario's designation, the President had not signed his appointment papers. Ermita, however, told a press conference on Wednesday in Malacañang that Del Rosario's appointment had been approved as early as two months ago.

But whether Del Rosario is a presidential adviser or a consultant, opposition Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. doubts the designation of Del Rosario could help improve the sagging approval rating of Ms Arroyo.

"Regardless of what her PR managers wanted to do to her image, only she, not her managers, can improve it. And if the image is rotten, no amount of cosmetics can cure this rottenness," Pimentel said.



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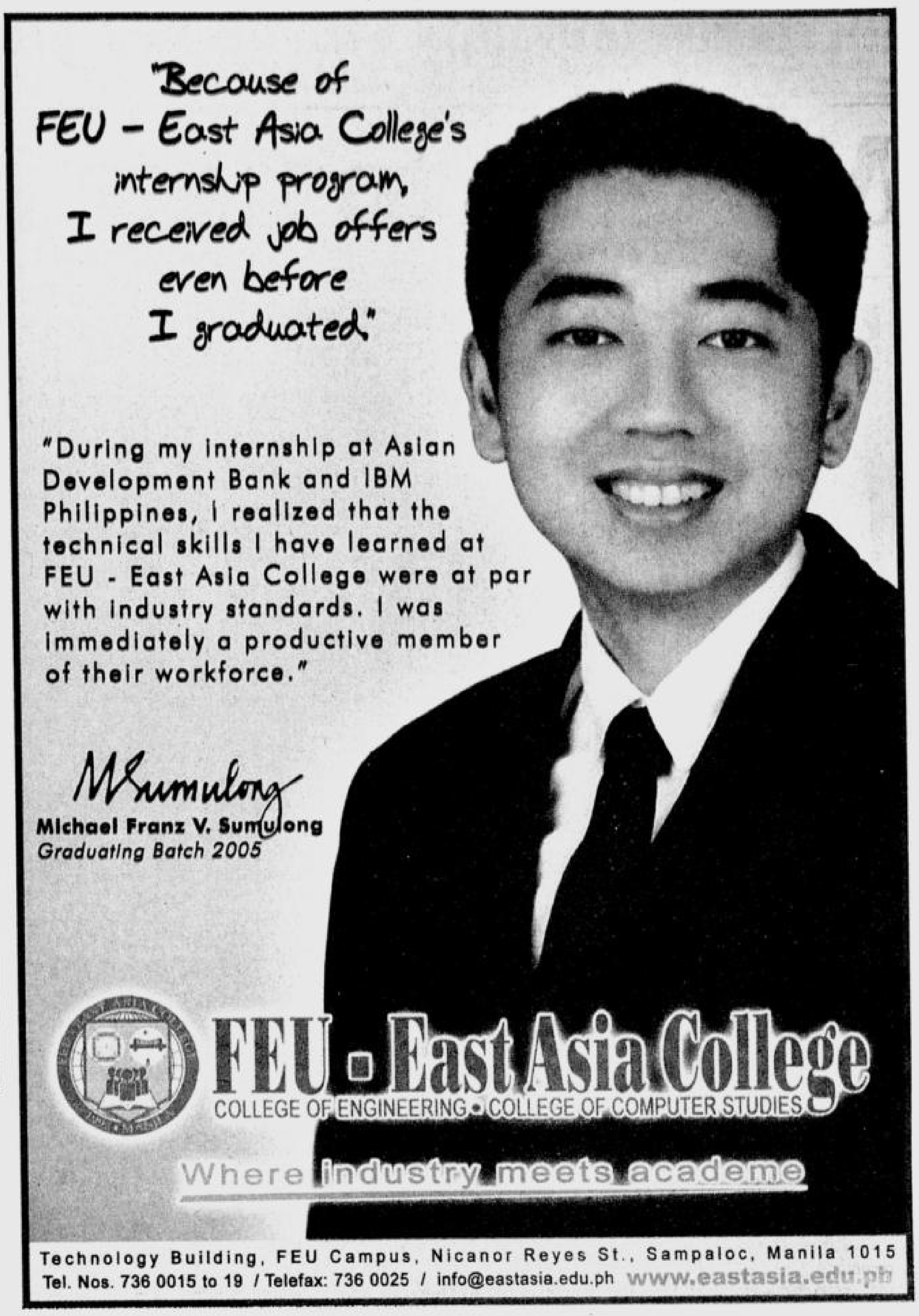

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HK maids unhappy with $6 minimum wage hike

HONG KONG—Foreign maids in Hong Kong received a US$6 increase Thursday in their required monthly pay—an increase they described as a "mere pittance."

The maids have repeatedly protested an 11 percent minimum wage cut imposed two years ago.

The 50 Hong Kong dollar (US$6; euro5) wage hike, which takes effect Thursday, brings the monthly minimum wage for foreign domestic helpers to HK$3,320 (US$426; euro336).

"While it is still an increase, it is but a mere pittance that bears no significant impact to the economic condition of migrant workers," Asian Migrants Coordinating Body spokesperson Eman Villanueva said in a statement.

The Hong Kong government slashed the maids' minimum monthly pay from HK$3,670 (US$471; euro372) in 2003, saying it was necessary to weather Hong Kong's economic recession at the time. *AP*

Back to basics reorientation for Oakwood foot soldiers

By Dona Pazzibugan

THE 184 enlisted personnel who joined the July 27, 2003 Oakwood mutiny have been told to undergo a three-week "back-to-basics" orientation course before they can return to their respective units.

The soldiers, who entered into a plea bargain with military prosecutors last week after spending 22 months in detention, will be formally released today.

They will be temporarily attached to the Headquarters and Headquarters Support Command (HHSC) at Camp Aguinaldo, while undergoing reorientation.

Under the plea bargain agreement, the soldiers pleaded guilty to three charges of disrespect and insubordination while the main charge of mutiny was dropped.

The general court martial sentenced them to demotion by three ranks and forfeiture of 2/3 of their basic salaries for three to six months.

The trial of the 96 junior officers calling themselves the Magdalo Group which led the mutiny, is still going on.

Armed Forces vice chief of staff Vice Admiral Ariston de los Reyes on Wednesday approved the court's verdict and recommendation for the "immediate release" of the mutineers.

He signed the release order on behalf of AFP chief of staff Gen. Efren Abu, who is abroad.

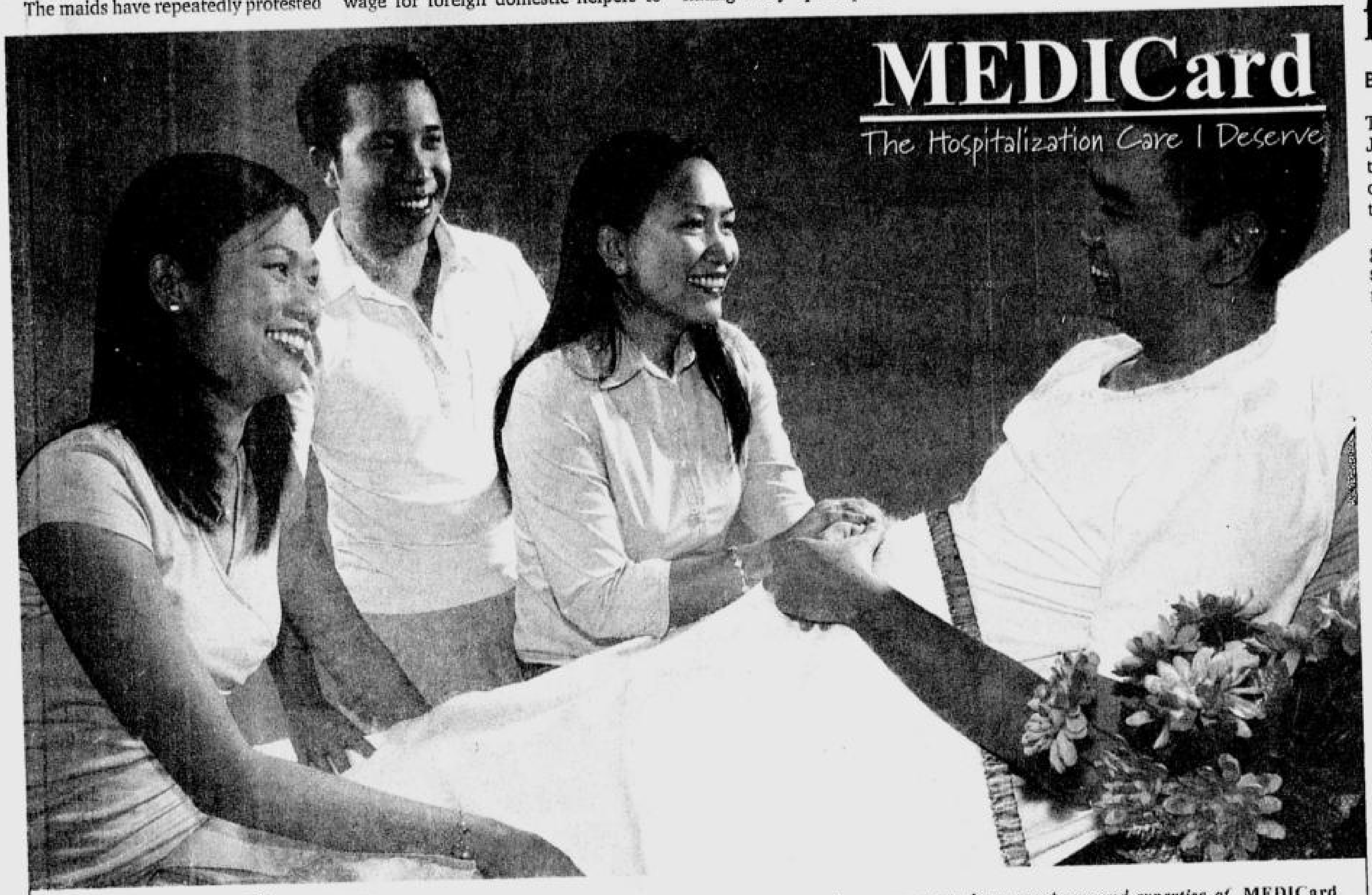
"They can now go home. I have already issued an order (for the release) a while ago," De los Reyes said at the sidelines of a Manila Overseas Press Club forum in Makati Wednesday night.

Copies of the release order were sent to the military detention facilities such as Fort Bonifacio in Makati and the Naval Base in Sangley Point, Cavite.

AFP deputy chief of staff for personnel (J1) Rear Admiral Mateo Mayuga said after their release, the soldiers would be required to undergo an "orientation (seminar) to prepare them to rejoin the mainstream AFP."

Navy spokesman Capt. Geronimo Malabanan said the reorientation course would take three weeks.

All 184 soldiers will be turned over today to Brig. Gen. Jovenal Narcise, commander of the Camp Aguinaldo general military headquarters.



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Reyes explains why he breaks traffic rules

By Luige A. del Puerto

SOME are more equal than others.

This was the distinct impression Interior Secretary Angelo Reyes gave yesterday when he said that public officials like himself may be exempted from traffic rules "in times of emergency meetings."

Reyes made the remark as he ordered the police to impound all vehicles without license plates or those sporting unauthorized or fake plates, adding that all citizens must obey even the simplest of rules.

At the same time, Reyes defended the practice of public officials using sirens and motorcycle escorts to get through traffic.

Asked why public officials such as himself used sirens and motorcycle escorts to get through traffic when, according to the rules, only the President, Vice President, Senate President, Speaker of the House and Chief Justice were allowed to do so, Reyes said:

"(Yes,) unless authorized. Fire trucks use sirens. What happens if you take the sirens off fire trucks? How about the sirens of ambulances?"

He said that what they were guarding against were "flagrant, brazen violations and abuses of the law."

He defended the practice further: "Sometimes you have so much work to do. There are so many meetings that are scheduled closely one after the other.

"You know how thick traffic is in Metro Manila. If you are called to a conference, an emergency conference, do you want us to be able to attend it?" he said.

When the INQUIRER pointed out that meetings were usually scheduled ahead of time, Reyes replied that not all meetings were.

"Are there no emergency meetings? Emergency situations call for emergency solutions," he said.

He lamented that the Philippines seemed to be the only country where "people run around blatantly without sporting any plate number."

"This insults the government," he said.

Upon his orders, the police began cracking down on mostly new vehicles, impounding 48 cars and 18 motorcycles in Metro Manila.

There would be no exemptions in this crackdown. Government as well as private cars without plates will be impounded, Reyes said.

He advised those who cars did not have license plates to leave their vehicles at home.

"If you do not have a plate, don't use your car... isn't that simple? Can't you wait for another week? If plates are not available, don't buy a car yet," he said.

The crackdown caused an uproar among those whose cars had been seized.

An IT manager said it was unfair of the police to go after the car owners when it was the Land Transportation Office that was slow in releasing license plates.

Another car owner said: "He (Reyes) is talking about obeying simple rules... but I guess they have the authority to use sirens and beat red lights and we don't."

"Actually, that is unfair. Why, don't we have emergencies too?" he said.

Defense chief sees end to insurgencies in 6 to 10 years

COMMUNIST insurgency will remain a national security threat for the next decade at most, according to Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz. Jr.

Cruz said the Armed Forces needs six to 10 more years to put an end to the 36-year-old insurgency waged by Communist Party of the Philippines through its armed group, the New People's Army.

He added that other internal security threats such as the Abu Sayyaf Group and the local operatives of the regional terrorist group Jemaah Islamiyah should have been licked by then.

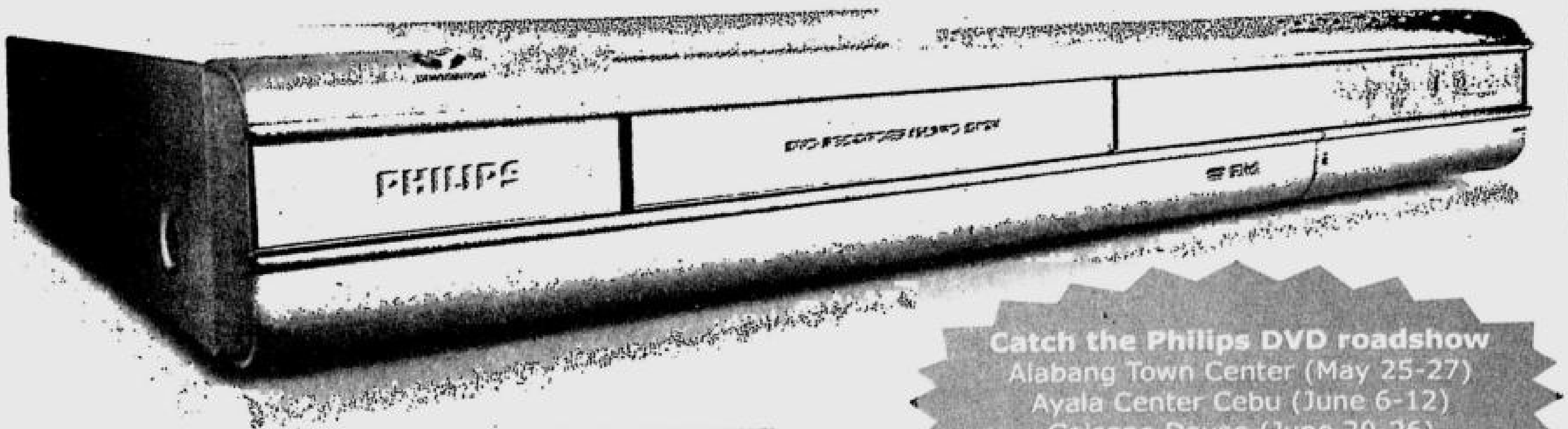
"The AFP can defeat the CPP-NPA in six to 10 years," Cruz told the Manila Overseas Press Club Wednesday night.

"If we are going to be attuned to the 21st century, it is an unacceptable attitude that we will have the communist insurgency for another 30 years," he added.

Cruz said such timetable is consistent with the Philippine Defense Reform Program which his team at the DND has formulated.

Dona Pazzibugan

Philips: At the helm of audio-video technology



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Technology can greatly influence attitudes, lifestyles and ideas to become an intrinsic part of the era in which it was born. Tracing its development is remarkable in itself, but what is equally impressive is when one finds out that a specific company or organization has played a dominant role in making things happen all along.

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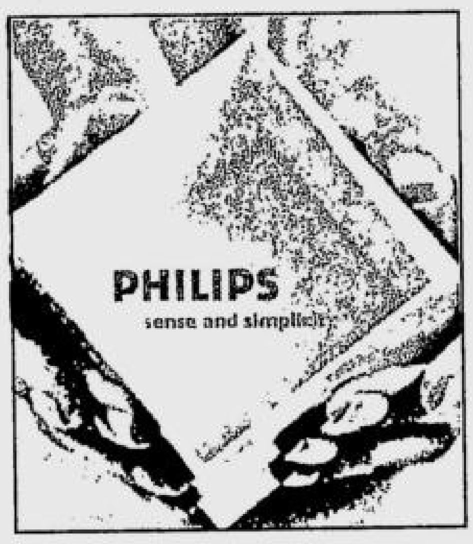
Innovations through the years

The company's influence in audio technology was first felt in 1960 when it introduced a length of magnetic strip spooled within a thin plastic shell -- the compact audiocassette tape -- which was a massive step forward in convenience back then.

In the 80's, the need to improve digital storage and reproduction paved the way for the next company innovation, the Compact Disc (CD). This take-off from the large format LaserDisc device opened a new era of digital, perfect sound, offering high dynamic range, very low noise and distortion, and user convenience. The CD format continues to be the music carrier of choice today.



Worldwide, Philips holds close to100,000 patents in invention which include the LaserDisc, Compact Disc and Digital Versatile Disc.

In the mid-1990's, Philips yet again took an active role in the development and popularization of the next generation of optical disc storage technology, the Digital Versatile Disc (DVD). With a much larger storage capacity and longer life span, the DVD became an industry standard in 1995.

Around the same time, Philips introduced the first DVD player in the market. Since then, the company pioneered more innovations that have made the public appreciate even more the wonders of the DVD format.

The best in DVD recording

Philips is the first to introduce a DVD recorder player, and has since become the best in DVD recording technology. One of the most advanced players in its DVD recorder line is the Philips DVDR520H. Not only does it record your favorite scenes on a DVD+R/+RW, it also stores content on its internal 80-GB hard disk drive. This feature gives you up to 100 hours of TV or movie recording, to keep you from missing out on those crucial scenes you want to capture.

You can copy a DVD movie to the HDD and transfer to another DVD. The DVDs you create is compatible with other DVD players and even DVD-ROM drives on PCs so you can share the stuff you've recorded. You can also easily record the videos in your camcorder straight to DVD.

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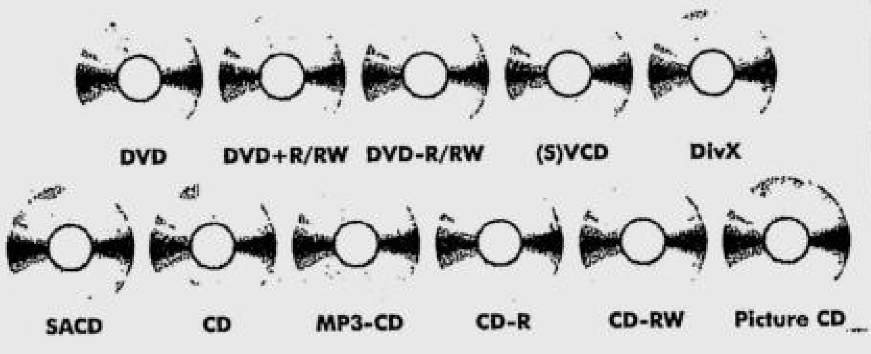

All Philips DVD players practically play any known digital format.

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Blu-ray Disc: The next generation

In the first decade of 2000, Philips is actively developing the next generation optical disc format known as Blu-ray Disc (BD). This format is designed to enable recording, rewriting and playback of high-definition video as well as storing an even larger amount of data. A single-layer Blu-ray Disc can hold 25GB, which can be used to record over 2 hours of high definition TV or more than 13 hours of standard-definition TV. Dual-layer versions of the discs can hold 50GB.

Current DVD formats use red laser to read and write data. The BD format uses a blue-violet laser which, with its shorter wavelength, can be focused with even greater precision. This allows data to be packed more tightly and stored in less space.

As part of the Blu-ray Disc Association, an alliance of over 90 companies promoting the global standardization of Blu-ray Disc technology, Philips has already developed advanced Blu-ray Disc products and solutions. There's a prototype all-on-one PC writer that reads and writes CD, DVD, and Blu-ray Disc, and a Blu-ray Disc video recorder that delivers stunning, high-definition pictures.

Philips will continue to stand at the helm of innovations in audio-video storage technology, just as it has done in other areas of home entertainment, to enhance the way we see, hear, and capture the world around us.

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NAT'L SECURITY MATTER?

Name your sources, DOJ tells PDI

By Armand N. Nocum

JUSTICE Secretary Raul Gonzalez has ordered the National Bureau of Investigation to look into allegations that "jueteng" money was reaching members of the First Family.

But he also warned the INQUIRER that its report on the matter in its Wednesday issue was affecting "national security."

In a letter he sent to INQUIRER editor in chief Letty Jimenez-Magsanoc, copies of which were distributed to reporters covering the Department of Justice, Gonzalez asked this paper to name its sources.

"Since your story has serious implications, even to national security, may I request your support and cooperation by giving us, in confidence, the names of B1, B2 and O1," Gonzalez said.

He said the report had "smeared the names" of First Gentleman Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo and of Philippine National Police Director General Arturo Lumibao.

"Unless we can fully authenticate this information by more than second-hand evidence, we will never be able to clean this nation of these illegalities. But at the same time, persons who should enjoy presumption of innocence under the law are already being convicted in the minds of the public," the justice secretary said.

He offered to put the witnesses under the government's Witness Protection Program "to make the investigation aboveboard and credible."

In another letter, Gonzalez ordered NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco to "locate" the key personalities named in the INQUIRER report, and to unmask the sources identified by their code names.

He also wrote a letter to Isabela Gov. Grace Padaca inviting her for "a confidential briefing in connection with your claim of large-scale jueteng operations in your province."

"I will appreciate it if you can identify the mayors involved. If you have the witnesses, we can offer them witness protection and assure them of their safety," he said.

He also congratulated Padaca "for your courage in making your exposé."

"The President told me to assure you of her support," he added.

Who owns Boracay?

By Fe Zamora

SO WHO owns Boracay?

Questions of land ownership pose yet another problem for the world-famous tourist paradise already beset by overcrowding, garbage and safe water woes.

Boracay, as an island, is considered a "public domain," said Mayor Ceciron Cawaling of the governing town of Malay. Yet government agencies such as the Philippine Tourism Authority (PTA) had "bought" lots from private residents, who have held tax declaration documents covering the property since 1945, he said.

Issuing land titles to resort owners will also displace longtime island residents who have been paying real estate taxes for decades but have not applied for individual titles to document their claim, Cawaling also said.

"People will be displaced, and they are not even squatters. They cleared that area when it was wilderness, and they have paid taxes. The problem is that they don't have the titles to the property," he said in Filipino.

Known as the country's playground of the rich and famous, Boracay has 1,000 hectares of rolling terrain ringed by stretches of fine white-sand beach interspersed with rock formations and underwater caves.

Beach-front lots sell at an average of P20,000 per sq.m., the same price of lots in Corinthian Gardens in Quezon City and Ayala Alabang Village in Muntinlupa, both enclaves of the wealthy in Metro Manila.

But helter-skelter development has placed Boracay in a "critical situation," according to tourism officials themselves.

Cawaling said issuing individual land titles to resort owners as a means of enlisting their cooperation in developing Boracay "was not timely."

"*Medyo madugong usapan 'yan* (That's a complicated issue)," he said.

Residents who have been paying taxes for the lots since 1945 should have first priority in titling property, not the "big investors," like resort owners who arrived only in the '90s, the mayor said.

"You can expect court battles here," he added.

Cawaling disclosed that only a small percentage of land on Boracay was titled.

Some landowners, like the Ayala family, had bought 84 hectares of coastal and interior land from the Sarabia-Tirol family, which held titles to the property.

Fred Elizalde, who owns an open-air shopping center called D'Mall, acquired several hectares of land when his friend, Ferdinand Marcos, was president several decades ago.

Other resort owners are leasing properties from residents who possess tax declaration papers as proof of their ownership claim, according to Cawaling.

Los Baños mayor asked to . . .

From page A1

sand beaches—if it did not solve its problems of garbage disposal, sewerage and construction activities.

'Science and Nature City'

Local officials yesterday reacted strongly to the assessment and called on tourism and environment officials to stop issuing "damaging statements" about Boracay.

The problems "are not serious as being painted ...," said Aklan Rep. Florencio Miraflores, although he admitted that there might have been "lapses" in regulating the construction of structures on the island.

Perez, who won accolades for turning Los Baños into one of the country's models for solid waste management, will assist in crafting a strategy for waste disposal in Boracay, Defensor said. The municipality proudly calls itself as "Science and Nature City."

The mayor has strictly implemented a municipal ordinance on anti-littering and waste segregation program, and has put up the Ecological Waste Processing Center.

He assembled waste pickers, buyers and scavengers to form the Los Baños Solid Waste Organization, which spearheaded waste management efforts in the city.

June deadline

Defensor said the municipality of Malay, which has jurisdiction over Boracay, should take charge of its waste disposal problem.

The DENR has given the local government and resort and restaurant owners until June to comply with environmental laws. Establishments without proper disposal facilities will be closed by next month.

"By mandate, it's the LGU who has the power ... to collect and manage the garbage system, but since there is a big problem, the national government, particularly the DENR, upon directive of the President, is intervening," Defensor said.

Malay Mayor Ceciron Cawaling said he had wanted to close the 50-foot dump in Sitio Lapuz-Lapuz in Boracay's Barangay Yapac but was forced to reopen it in February, when tourism season was at its peak.

Cawaling also said the municipality aborted its plan to build a composting site beside the dump because the DENR failed to give its share of P500,000 for the project.

"I don't think they should blame the national government for it. For the longest time, Boracay was being run by the local government unit and the private companies. It is only now that the national government came in," Defensor said.

Guidelines

He said the DENR had already requested the Philippine Tourism Authority to allow the use of a two-hectare property for composting.

"We have to put our acts together if we want Boracay to be sustainable. There must be clear guidelines on how to manage the resort with the growing number of tourists," the secretary said. "We should fix everything, from air pollution to the construction of infrastructure."

Los Baños Mayor Perez said he was offered to head the agency to oversee the island's garbage problem after Defensor asked him to present his solid waste management program that ended his town's problem with the garbage dump at the foot of Mt. Makiling.

He said he also presented the proposal during a "very private" meeting at a private resort in Boracay on April 14. President Macapagal-Arroyo, Senate President Franklin Drilon and heads of government agencies were present.

Independent authority

"I told the secretary that we need to form an independent authority to oversee the rehabilitation of Boracay's garbage dump because the local government failed in its implementation. All we need there is a strong political will," Perez said.

In a statement, Aklan Representative Miraflores said he was "disappointed" at statements that tended to picture the island as "overcrowded, dirty and disorderly."

"Making damaging remarks about Boracay will not only hurt our province but (also hurt) the entire tourism industry," he said.

Miraflores said the island was "understandably overcrowded" during summer and weekends because of the heavy influx of tourists. But he maintained that the number of residents on the island was still within manageable level.

Tour operators warning

Tour operators yesterday warned that unless solved soon, the problems haunting Boracay could start sending tourists away.

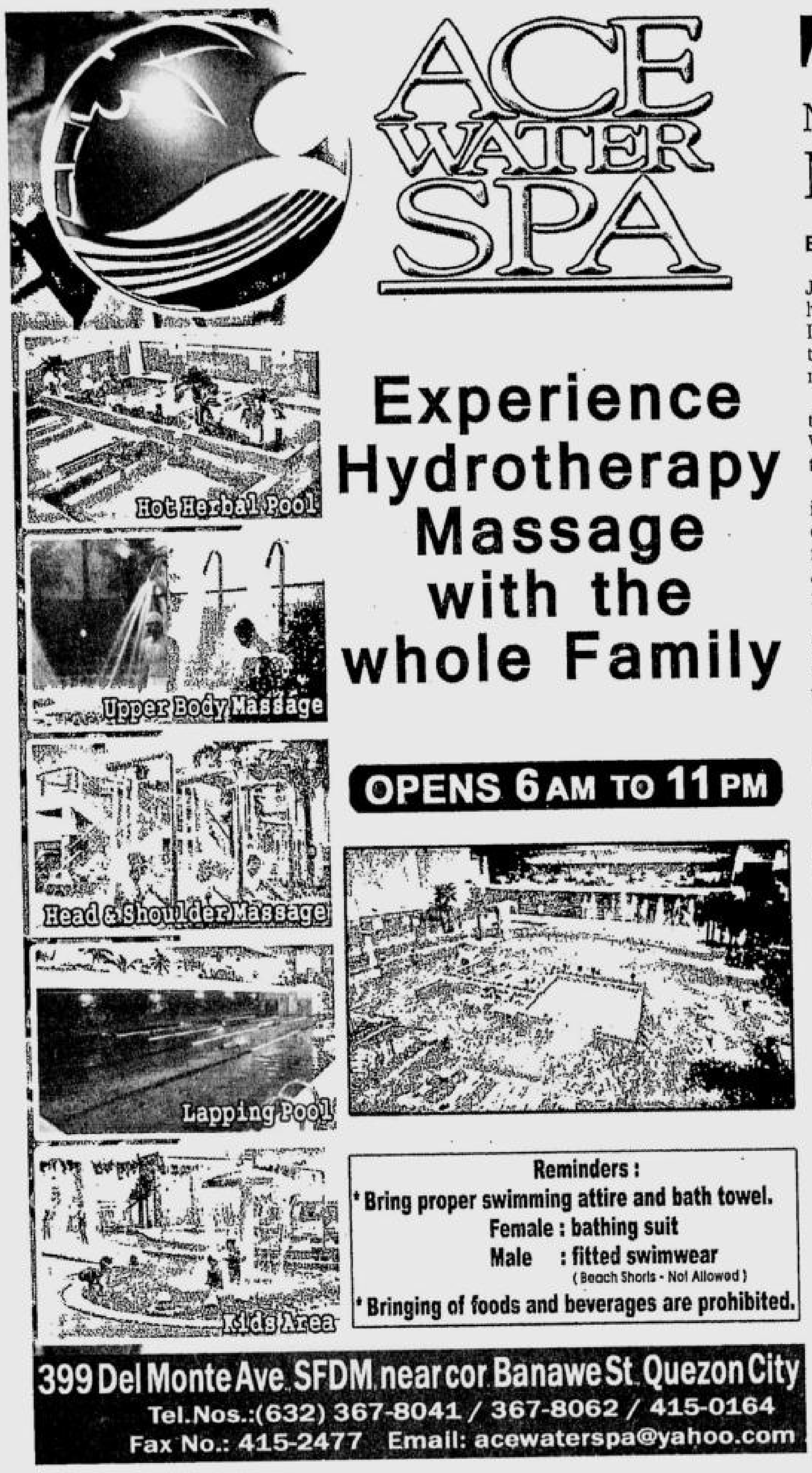
"If the authorities do not do something about these problems, these would soon affect tourism in the area," said Leo Picaso Jr., president of the Philippine Tour Operators Association.

So far, the flow of tourists has not yet been disrupted, Picaso said.

But concern has already been raised by some tourists. Ianne Diwa, account executive of Le Soleil De Boracay Hotel, said some tourists inquiring about the hotel's location had asked if it was near the dump.

"We are asking the government to act on the problem soon. We also urge other proprietors to participate in proper garbage disposal and segregation," Diwa said.

She admitted that garbage was mounting on the island because of the uncontrolled mushrooming of hotels and other establishments. *With reports from Nestor P. Burgos Jr., PDI Visayas Bureau, and Edson C. Tandoc Jr.*



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Pimentel to testify for Erap

By Nelson F. Flores

OPPOSITION Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. is set to testify for deposed President Joseph Estrada to bolster claims by the former leader's camp that the multimillion-peso plunder charges were politically motivated, defense lawyer Jose Flaminiano said yesterday.

Flaminiano said Pimentel's testimony would compliment a declaration by former Chief Justice Andres Narvasa the other day before the Sandiganbayan's Special Division that President Macapagal-Arroyo had tried but failed to convince Estrada to go into voluntary exile abroad.

Ms Arroyo's offer, Narvasa said, was made through former Justice Secretary Hernani Perez after Estrada was ousted from power in 2001 in exchange for criminal immunity.

Narvasa added that Ms Arroyo had also asked Estrada to submit his resignation letter and a medical certificate attesting his need for medical treatment.

Flaminiano said that Ms Arroyo's attempt to strike a deal with Estrada only indicated that the former leader was not guilty.

"Estrada could have just left to avoid humiliation of being hauled in court but he did not," Flaminiano said.

Flaminiano also assailed Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio for saying that the defense panel was running out of witnesses. "He (Villa-Ignacio) should stop demeaning the defense panel by making it appear that we no longer have any witnesses to present."

Villa-Ignacio said in an earlier interview that Narvasa's testimony was irrelevant to the plunder and perjury charges filed against Estrada.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Friday, May 20, 2005
7th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading:	Sir 6:5-17
Gospel:	Mark 10:1-12

Jesus left Capernaum and went to the province of Judea, beyond the Jordan River. Once more crowds gathered around him and once more he taught them, as he always did. Some (Pharisees came and) put him to the test with this question, "Is it right for a husband to divorce his wife?" He replied, "What law did Moses give you?" They answered, "Moses allowed us to write a certificate of dismissal in order to divorce."

Then Jesus said to them, "Moses wrote this law for you, because you are stubborn. But in the beginning of creation God made them male and female, and because of this, man has to leave father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one body. So they are no longer two but one body. Therefore let no one separate what God has joined."

When they were indoors at home, the disciples again asked him about this and he told them, "Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against his wife, and the woman who divorces her husband and marries another also commits adultery."

Commentary

Wherever Jesus goes, the crowds of those in need, searching and wanting follow him, and so do the leaders and teachers looking for a way to trap him. This time, the question is: is it right for a husband to divorce his wife? They know the answer—no divorce according to Moses' law, but divorce is practiced and allowed—but only for the husband to divorce his wife, not the wife to divorce her husband. Jesus is angry and says that they know the law but the law accommodated their weakness and sin because they were stubborn and hard of heart, but that doesn't change the law. Later, when the disciples want to know, Jesus equalizes both husband and wife—whoever divorces the other commits adultery, is unfaithful to the spouse. You cannot use the law on one of the two and not on the other and the law must be honored as defending faithfulness while we must admit that we fail and sin against God and one another. It all begins with the truth. All of our lives need to be looked at with truthfulness.

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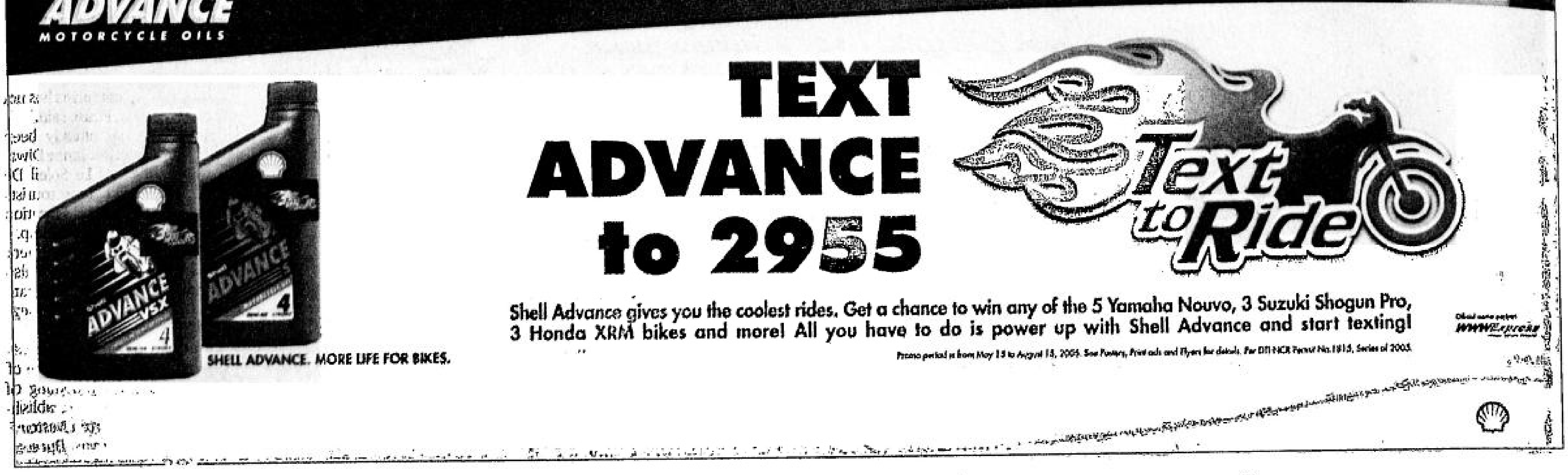

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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

US calls for probe of Uzbek massacre

WASHINGTON—The United States on Wednesday called for a "credible and transparent" investigation into the reported massacre of hundreds of protesters in the central Asian state of Uzbekistan.

But the state department stopped short of backing the call by British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw for an internationally led probe into Friday's shootings by soldiers in the eastern city of Andijan.

"We certainly do agree that there needs to be a credible and a transparent accounting to establish the facts of the matter of what occurred in Andijan," said department spokesperson Richard Boucher.

"And I'm sure the international community will be prepared to be part of that process, either supporting it or undertaking it."

Boucher said a government-sponsored tour of the site for diplomats and the media, as well as other reports, painted "a very disturbing picture of the events and the government of Uzbekistan's reaction to them.

"It's becoming apparent that very large numbers of civilians were killed by the indiscriminate use of force by Uzbek forces," he said.

"At the same time, I think it's clear that the episode began by an armed attack on the prison and on other government facilities."

Boucher reiterated the US call on Uzbek President Islam Karimov to adopt genuine political and economic reforms to head off future unrest.

"Real reform and respect for human rights is the only way for there to be a political pressure valve so that people can pursue their issues and views through the political process," he said. *AFP*

UZBEK refugee women who fled the town of Andizhan resting inside a tent in the village of Barash Bazar in Dzhalal-Abad region of Kyrgyzstan, near the border with Uzbekistan, May 15. REUTERS

US: Grenade hurled at Bush in Georgia armed

TBILISI—A live hand grenade was thrown toward US President George W. Bush as he addressed a massive crowd here last week and posed a threat to his welfare, the US Embassy said here Wednesday, contradicting initial reports from US and Georgian officials.

"At approximately 1:30 p.m. on May 10, 2005 while the president of the United States was making his remarks on Freedom Square, a hand grenade was tossed in the general direction of the main stage," the embassy said in a statement posted on its website.

"This hand grenade appears to be a live device that simply failed to function," the statement said, adding: "We consider this act to be a threat against the health and welfare of both the president of the United States and the president of Georgia," Mikhail Saakashvili.

Saakashvili was on the platform near Bush as he addressed the crowd of around 120,000 people.

The assertions that the grenade was thrown, that it was live and that it posed a danger to Bush contradicted statements from Georgian authorities who said the day after the incident that the grenade had been unarmed and had been planted in the area as a publicity stunt.

A White House spokesperson, Scott McClellan, and the secretary of Georgia's national security council, Gela Bezhuashvili, both said on May 11 that the grenade had posed no threat to the life of either Bush or Saakashvili.

The US Embassy statement however, listed a phone number and email address and requested that anyone "who has any information whatsoever about the person that threw this hand grenade" contact investigators in order to "bring this perpetrator that threatened the life of so many to justice." *AFP*

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15 June	Appeals in Labor Law Cases: *Rules and Procedure (Procedural Law)*	Three(3)(1:30-4:30)	Justice Vicente S.E. Veloso
16 June	Wenphil, Serrano and Agabon Doctrines Revisited (*Substantive Law*)	Three(3)(1:30-4:30)	Dean Antonio H. Abad, Jr.
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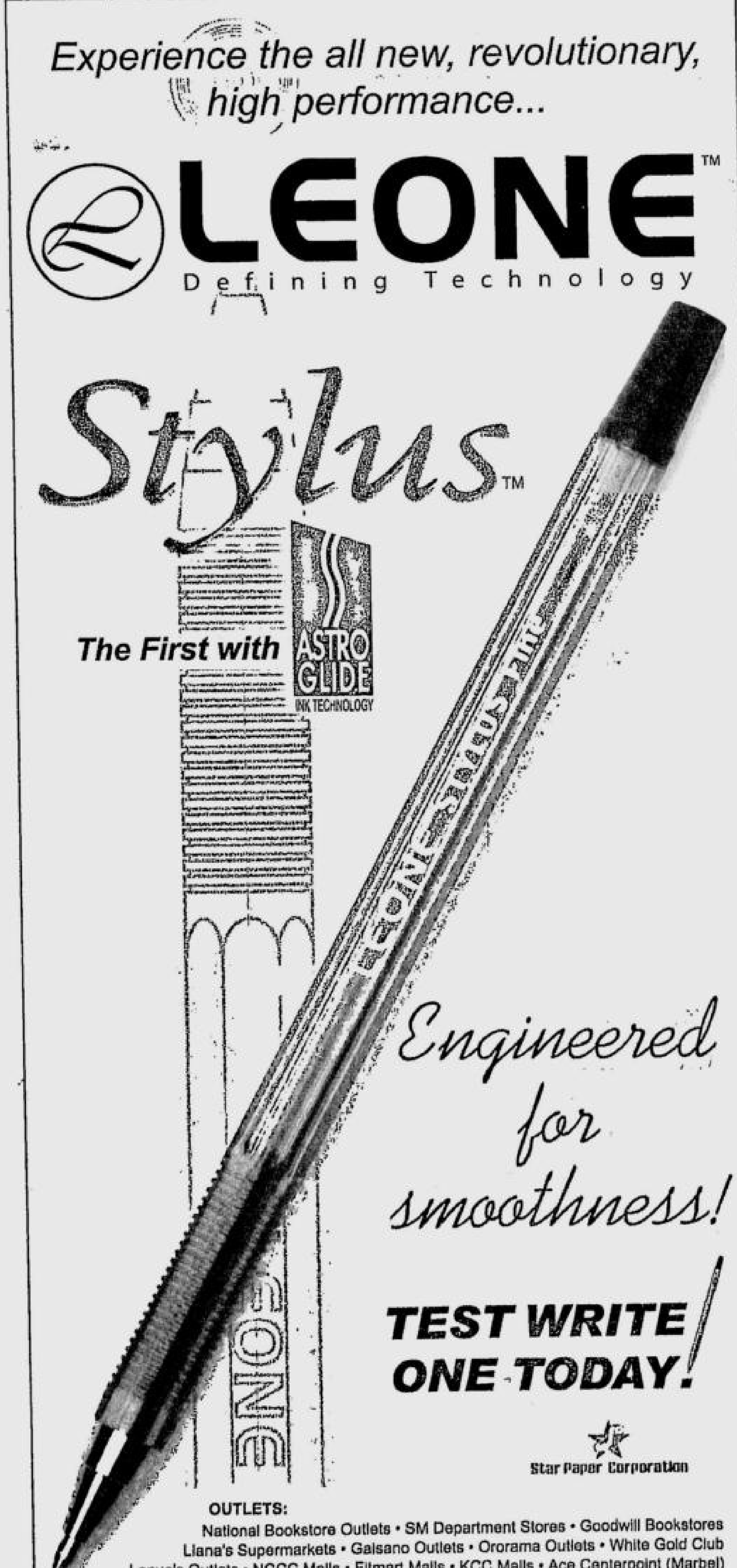

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Zarqawi justifies killing of Muslims

DUBAI — Al-Qaida's leader in Iraq defended the killing of innocent Muslims in suicide bombings against US forces, saying it was permitted by Islam for the sake of jihad (holy war), according to an audio tape attributed to him on Wednesday.

"The killing of infidels by any method including martyrdom (suicide) operations has been sanctified by many scholars even if it means killing innocent Muslims. This legality has been agreed upon... so as not to disrupt jihad," Abu Musab al-Zarqawi said on the tape posted on an Islamist website.

The Jordanian militant, Washington's biggest foe in Iraq, quoted Muslim scholars to justify the loss of Muslim lives in suicide attacks in Iraq. His message appeared aimed at winning Sunni Muslim support for the insurgency.

More important

"Protecting religion is more important than protecting (Muslim) lives, honor or wealth," said the man who sounded like Zarqawi. "The shedding of Muslim blood... is allowed in order to avoid the greater evil of disrupting jihad."

The authenticity of the tape could not be verified and it was not clear when it was recorded.

More than 400 people have been killed in an escalating cycle of violence and suicide attacks since a new Iraqi government was named late last month. Zarqawi's group has claimed responsibility for most of those attacks.

The speaker said it was crucial to step up suicide attacks to weaken his enemy's modern military might. "These operations are our lethal weapons against the enemy.

"God knows that we were careful not to kill Muslims and we have called off many operations in the past to avoid losses... but we cannot kill infidels without killing some Muslims. It is unavoidable," he added.

Mistakes

"We know that some mistakes may happen and victims may fall and this causes us grief, but what can we do in the face of this reality in which the enemy has penetrated our land."

He said Muslims killed unintentionally in such attacks were "martyrs who died for Islam."

The speaker blasted the Shiite Muslim community, calling them "rejectionists who fought alongside the worshippers of the cross and spearheaded every war against (Sunni) Muslims."

Iraq's Sunnis lost power to the county's majority Shiites after the US war toppled Saddam Hussein.

Addressing Iraq's Sunnis, the speaker added: "We are the spearhead of the Ummah (Sunni nation) and its first line of defense in the face of the crusaders' advance. If the jihad's power subsides then the Ummah will witness calamities and disasters." *Reuters*

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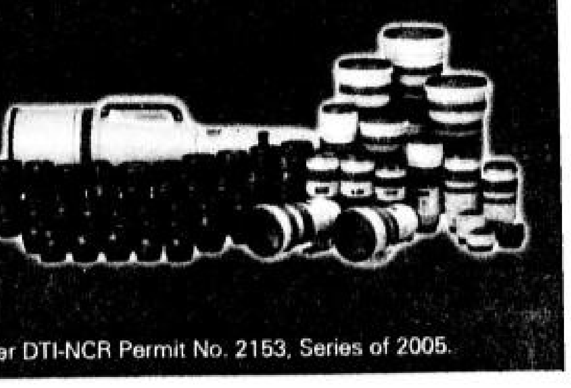

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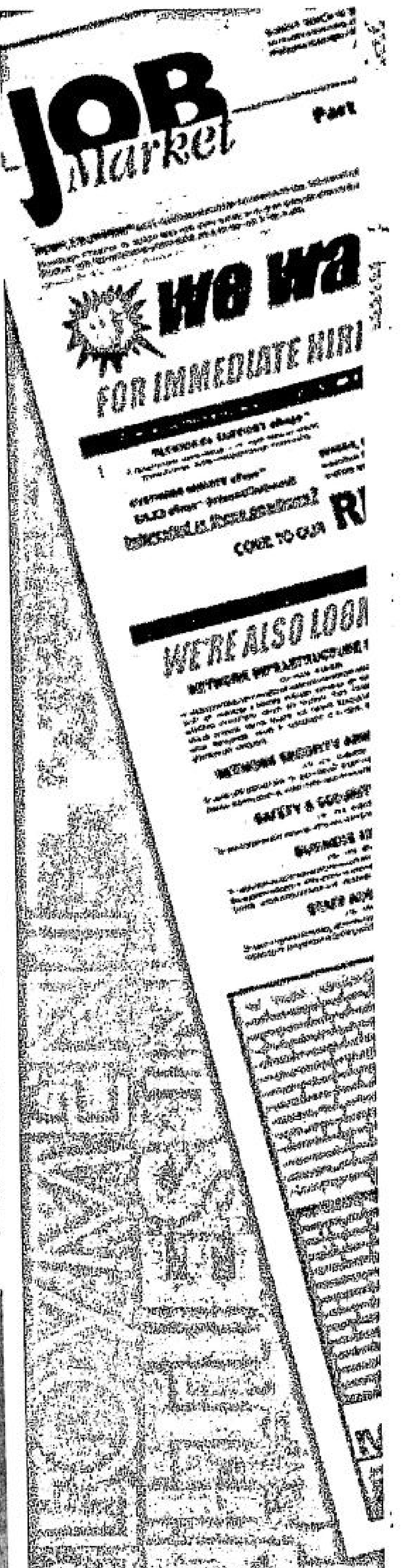

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Russia tycoon could draw lighter sentences

MOSCOW—The Moscow court reading the verdict in the trial of oil tycoon Mikhail Khodorkovsky on Thursday said it considers him to have committed fraud, but indicated he could receive a lighter sentence than originally sought.

Khodorkovsky and co-defendant Platon Lebedev were on trial on seven charges including fraud, tax evasion and embezzlement in a case that many observers say is Kremlin revenge for Khodorkovsky's political activities.

In the fourth day of the laborious verdict process, Judge Irina Kolesnikova said Khodorkovsky—the former head of the Yukos oil company and once considered Russia's richest man—and Lebedev had committed theft by fraud. But she said the court's sentencing would be guided by a section of the law calling for four to 10 years' imprisonment, rather than five to 10.

The section that would be used was in effect in 1995, when the court says Khodorkovsky and Lebedev acquired shares in a fungicide research institute through a rigged privatization auction. The indictment had charged a violation of a law that came into effect later.

The decision raised the prospect that the court could impose sentences lighter than the maximum 10 years sought by prosecutors in the politically sensitive case.

Under Russian procedures, a trial verdict, which is read aloud, is not a simple declaration of whether a defendant is guilty, but a long summation of prosecution and defense arguments and court commentary. A firm statement on guilt and on sentencing does not come until the end of the process.

The verdict reading so far has left little doubt that they would be found guilty on six of the charges, but questions remain about the seventh charge, which had been one of the key elements of the case. That charge, which said Khodorkovsky and Lebedev acquired shares in a fertilizer component company in an arrangement similar to the charge detailed Thursday, has not so far been read out in the verdict. *AP*

Deadly Angola fever kills over 300

GENEVA — Marburg fever has killed more than 300 people in Angola, mainly through exposure to the deadly virus at home and at funerals, the World Health Organization said on Thursday.

The United Nations agency said Angolan health officials had reported 337 cases since late last year, 311 of them fatal.

The vast majority of cases have been in the northern province of Uige, epicenter of the world's worst outbreak of the Ebola-like disease. "No cases have been reported outside Uige for the past five weeks," the WHO said in a statement.

Despite better infection control at Uige hospital and collection of unsafe syringes in homes, new cases "continue to be linked to exposure in homes and at funerals, indicating that public understanding of the disease still needs to be improved," it said.

Experts say many cases have been contracted by people caring for loved ones in the final stages of illness or through washing and kissing bodies. *AP*

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MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE

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SUNDAY, MAY 22, 2005

MANILA

BETWEEN 7:00AM AND 7:30AM AND THEN BETWEEN 2:30PM AND 3:00PM – THE WHOLE OF CIRCUIT SAMPALOC 23K AND PORTION OF CIRCUIT NORTH PORT 17H
Portion of A. H. Lacson Ave. (Gov. Forbes) from Meralco-Sampaloc substation to and including Tomas Mapua, Laguna, Batangas, Camarines, Anacleto, Tayuman Sts. in Sta. Cruz. Aragon, San Lazaro, Alvarez, Oroquieta, P. Guevarra, Navarra, Asturias and Gelinos Sts. in Sampaloc

BETWEEN 7:00AM AND 3:00PM – PORTION OF CIRCUITS NORTH PORT 405H-SAMPALOC 47K AND NORTH PORT 17H
Portion of Old Antipolo and Felix Huertas Sts. from Meralco-North Port substation to near Tayabas St. including Batangas, Laguna, Severino Reyes and Almeda Sts. in Sta. Cruz.
REASON: Upgrading of facilities along Old Antipolo St. in Sta. Cruz, Manila

TUESDAY, MAY 24, 2005

QUEZON CITY (NOVALICHES)

BETWEEN 1:00AM AND 7:00AM – PORTION OF CIRCUIT NOVALICHES 49YJ
Portion of Quirino Highway and F. Salvador Ave from Meralco-Novaliches substation to and including portion of Commonwealth Ave. (DMMA), Guadaville Subd., Jordan Plains Subd., D' Square Commonwealth Complex and Metro Manila College in Bgy. Sta. Monica.
REASON: Various maintenance work along Quirino Highway in Novaliches, Quezon City

PARAÑAQUE CITY

BETWEEN 8:00AM AND 2:00PM – PORTION OF CIRCUIT SUN VALLEY 425WG – 43WG
Major portion of Merville Park Subd including Vatican, Athens, Washington, Naples, Vienna, Tokyo, Barcelona, Florida, Madrid, Milan, Nomads, Rome, New York, Amsterdam, Munich, Hamburg, Anchorage, Copenhagen, Melbourne, Calcutta, Cairo, Florence, Toledo, Jerusalem, Iraq, Israel and Teheran Sts. in Bgy. Merville.
REASON: Various maintenance work along New York St. in Merville Park Subd., Bgy. Merville, Parañaque City

CAVITE

BETWEEN 8:00AM AND 5:00PM – THE WHOLE OF CIRCUITS TERNATE 41TN AND 32ZO AND PUERTO AZUL 32XX AND 33XX AND PORTION OF CIRCUIT TERNATE 31ZO
The whole of Ternate including Marbella Resort, Puerto Azul Beach Resort and Country Club, Ocean View Villas, Caysubic Cottages and Paniman Resorts.
The whole of Maragondon except Bgys. Kaylangis and Mabilog.
Bgys. Muzon, San Roque, Molino and Malainen in Naic.
REASON: Transco maintenance work along Dasmariñas – FCIE – TMC II – Ternate 115 kV transmission line

LAGUNA (LOS BAÑOS)

BETWEEN 8:00AM AND 8:15AM AND THEN BETWEEN 4:45PM AND 5:00PM – THE WHOLE OF CIRCUIT LOS BAÑOS 31WT
Portion of PNR Railroad Track and San Luis St. from near Los Baños National Road to and including Dairyville Subd., Pleasant Village, Hillside Subd., L.A. Village, Bos. Buot and Putho-Tuntungin.
Portion of Silangan Groove from near International Rice Research Institute to Lopez Ave. in Bo. San Antonio.
REASON: Various maintenance work inside NPC – Makban substation.

CAVITE (TRECE MARTIREZ CITY AND TANZA)

BETWEEN 9:00AM AND 9:15AM AND THEN BETWEEN 1:45PM AND 2:00PM - PORTION OF CIRCUIT TMC – 37XW
Portion of Tanza – Trece Martirez Highway from Transville Homes to and including Don Crispin Yumol Memorial School, Punta Elem. School, Paradahan Elem. School, Phil. Army Reserve Command – Camp Riego de Dios, Paaralang Elem. ng Tres Cruses, Tanza National High School in Tanza. City View I, Dela Costa Formation Center, St. Jude Farm and Bgy. De Ocampo in Trece Martirez City

BETWEEN 9:00AM AND 2:00PM - PORTION OF CIRCUIT TMC - I 37XW
Portion of TMC-Indang Highway from Meralco-TMC substation to near Transville Homes including TMC Market and TMC Capitol in Trece Martirez.
Portion of Naic-Trece Martirez Highway from TMC-Indang Highway to and including Rural Health Unit, Camella Homes, Don Bosco Exec. Village in Bgy. Cabuco and Masagana Gas Corp. in Trece Martirez.
REASON: Repair work inside Meralco – TMC – I substation

MAKATI CITY AND TAGUIG CITY

BETWEEN 9:00AM AND 9:30AM AND THEN BETWEEN 2:30PM AND 3:00PM – PORTION OF CIRCUIT MALIBAY 41VJ – 411VJ
Portion of Lumbang, Cypress and Tamarind Sts. from Amorsolo St. to near Ipil Road including portions of Carissa, Calumpang Sts., Peerless Products in Dasmariñas Village, Pili Ave. and Bauhinia Road in South Forbes Park, Makati City

BETWEEN 9:00AM AND 3:00PM – PORTION OF CIRCUIT MALIBAY 41VJ – 411VJ
Along Ipil Road, Tamarind St., McKinley Road and Lawton Ave. from near Manila Polo Club to and including Essensa Towers, Regent Parkway in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City, and Ipil Place in South Forbes Park, Makati City
REASON: Replacement of leaning pole along Ipil Road in South Forbes Park, Makati City.

TUESDAY TO WEDNESDAY, MAY 24 – 25, 2005

VALENZUELA CITY AND MALABON CITY

BETWEEN 11:00PM AND 11:30PM (TUE., 05/24/05) AND THEN BETWEEN 5:30AM AND 6:00AM (WED., 05/25/05) – PORTIONS OF CIRCUIT MALINTA 45YB
Portion of McArthur Highway from F. Bautista St. to and including San Miguel Brewery – Polo Compound, Cosmos Bottling Plant, Metro Shikiso Chem., Bureau of Animal Industry, Newton Food Products, Vanson Paper, Conic Plastic Mfg., Paramount Paper, Famous Snack Corp., Dura Tire & Rubber Inds., New Yobek Inc., Ultra Steel Sales, Techtron Industrial Corp., Sterling Steel, A. Fernando, R. Delfin, A. Delfin and R. Valenzuela Sts. in Bgy. Marulas, Valenzuela City.
Portion of McArthur Highway from near Tullahan Bridge to and including Vinta Lodge in Bgy. Potrero, Malabon City.
REASON: Line repair work along Tullahan Bridge in Bgy. Marulas, Valenzuela City

WEDNESDAY, MAY 25, 2005

MANILA (MALATE) AND MAKATI CITY

BETWEEN 12:01AM AND 12:15AM AND THEN BETWEEN 5:45AM AND 6:00AM – THE WHOLE OF CIRCUITS MALATE 24J AND 17J
Portion of Taft Ave. from Dagonoy St. to Pablo Ocampo Sr. St. (Vito Cruz) including Equitable PCI Bank, KFC – University Mall, Madison Square Condominium and Jollibee in Malate, Manila.
Portion of Leon Guinto and Estrada Sts from Meralco – Malate substation along Dagonoy St. to near Pres. Sergio Osmeña Highway (South Superhighway) including Instituto Cervantes, Dian, G. Del Pilar, Consuelo, Don Pedro and Alejo Aquino Sts. in Malate, Manila.
Portion of Arellano Ave., Pablo Ocampo Sr. St and Zobel Roxas Ave. from Estrada St. to and including Caton, Eureka, Archimedes, Balagtas Sts. in Bgy. La Paz, Makati City; Conchu and Filmore Sts. in Malate, Manila.
Portion of Filmore St. from Pablo Ocampo Sr. St to Arellano Ave. including Zobel Roxas Ave., Dian, Boyle, Curie, and Enrique Sts. in Bgy. Palanan, Makati City.
REASON: Preventive maintenance and testing work inside Meralco-Malate substation.

WEDNESDAY TO THURSDAY, MAY 25 – 26, 2005

MARIKINA CITY

BETWEEN 11:00PM AND 11:30PM (WED., 05/25/05) AND THEN BETWEEN 4:30AM AND 5:00AM (THU., 05/26/05) – PORTIONS OF CIRCUIT MARIKINA 50VG
Portion of J. P. Rizal St. from Amang Rodriguez Village to J. Molina St.
Portion of Bayan-Bayanan Ave. from E. Santos Ave. to and including Max's Restaurant.
Portion of A. De Guzman St. from Bayan-Bayanan Ave. to near Molave St. in Bgy Concepcion 1

BETWEEN 11:00PM (WED., 05/25/05) AND 5:00AM (THU., 05/26/05) – PORTION OF CIRCUIT MARIKINA 50VG
Portion of J. Molina Ave. from near J. P. Rizal St. to Bobwhite St. including Oro Vista Subd. and Strip 70 Subd.
Portion of E. Santos Ave. from J. Molina St. to near Bayan-Bayanan Ave in Bgy. Concepcion 1.
REASON: Replacement of rotten poles along E. Santos Ave. in Bgy. Concepcion 1, Marikina City.

VALENZUELA CITY

BETWEEN 11:30PM AND 12:00MN (WED., 05/25/05) AND THEN BETWEEN 4:00AM AND 4:30AM (THU., 05/26/05) – PORTION OF CIRCUIT MALINTA 45YB
Portion of McArthur Highway from Meralco – Malinta substation along Maysan Road to and including Don Pedro Road, Esperanza, Paciencia, Caridad, Prudencia, Templanza and Fe Sts in Don Pedro Village, Bgy. Marulas
Portion of San Francisco St. from McArthur Highway to near Sto. Rosario St. in Bgy. Karuhatan.

BETWEEN 11:30PM (WED., 05/25/05) AND 4:30AM (THU., 05/26/05) – PORTION OF CIRCUIT MALINTA 45YB
Portion of San Francisco St. from Sto. Rosario St. to and including Wire Rope Corp., Universal Towel Mfg., Atlantic Knitting Mills, Liberty Cotton Mills, Island Plastic Mfg., Peerless Product Mfg., Unison Plastic Mfg., SJ Plastic Industries, Atlas Metal Prods. Mfg., Int'l Elastic Fabric Corp., Udylite Metallic Mfg., Panther Metal Mfg., Texaco Vinyl Products, Star Galaxy Ind. Fab., Steelworld Mfg., Nation Confectionery and Industrial Road in Bgy. Karuhatan.
REASON: Replacement of broken pole along San Francisco St in Bgy Karuhatan, Valenzuela City.

THURSDAY, MAY 26, 2005

PASAY CITY AND PARANAQUE CITY

BETWEEN 12:01AM AND 1:00AM – THE WHOLE OF CIRCUIT CBP-1A 415RF AND PORTION OF CIRCUIT MALIBAY 51VJ
Portion of Bay Blvd. from Meralco-Coastal Business Park substation to F. B. Harrison St. including SM Mall of Asia, SM Corporate Offices, Price Smart and Shrine of Jesus Church in Oceana Business Park, Pasay City.
Portion of F. B. Harrison St. from near Trece de Marso St. to Antonio S. Arnaiz Ave. (Libertad) including M. Roxas, J. Correa, T. Claudio, Aguarra Sts., Redemptorist Road, Crowne Bay Tower, Berma Center in Bgy. Baclaran, Parañaque City Ortigas, Lancaster, Shady Lane, Derham Sts., Cuneta Ave., MWSS – Pasay Pumping Station & Reservoir, Kanlaon Towers, Stanford Residences (Chateau de Baie), Antel Seaview Towers, Cuneta Astrodome, Lancaster Townhomes and one-feed of Hyatt Regency in San Rafael, Pasay City.
Portion of Antonio S. Arnaiz Ave. (Libertad) and Roxas Blvd from near P. Villanueva St. to Sen. Gil J. Puyat Ave. (Buendia Ave.) including Cuenca St., one-feed of Dept. of Foreign Affairs, National Statistics Office, World Trading & Handicrafts, SNC – Lavalin Intl., Phil. Trade Expo and Center for International Trade & Expo Missions in Sta. Clara and San Jose, Pasay City.
Portion of Sen. Gil J. Puyat Ave. (Buendia Ave.) from near F. B. Harrison St. to Roxas Blvd. including GSIS Complex and Senate Hall in Financial Center Complex, Pasay City.
REASON: Loadshifting of portion of circuit Malibay 51VJ to circuit CBP-1A 415RF.

LAGUNA (STA. CRUZ AND PILA)

BETWEEN 8:00AM AND 5:00PM – THE WHOLE OF CIRCUITS STA. CRUZ 32WF, 33WF, 34WF AND 35WF
The whole towns of Sta. Cruz and Pila.
REASON: Transco line maintenance work along Caliraya – Sta. Cruz 69 kV transmission lines.

THURSDAY TO FRIDAY, MAY 26 – 27, 2005

CALOOCAN CITY AND MALABON CITY

BETWEEN 11:00PM AND 11:30PM (THU., 05/26/05) AND THEN BETWEEN 4:30AM AND 5:00AM (FRI., 05/27/05) – PORTION OF CIRCUITS MALABON 55YD AND 413YD
Portion of Bronze, Nickel, Acero and Dr. Lazcano (Paz) Sts. from Cobre St. to Gen. San Miguel St. in Bgy. Tugatog, Malabon City.
Portion of Gen. San Miguel St. and Mayor Palerio Aquino Ave. (Letre Road) from J. Felipe St. in Sangandaan, Caloocan City to near Our Lady of Lourdes Eternal Park in Bgy Tonsuya. Malabon City including Kinjoin Industrial Corp., Gozon Commercial Complex, Super 8 Concrete, Marco Structures, Ryan Metals Mfg., Fabriknit Industries and Champion Packaging Corp. in Bgy. Tonsuya, Malabon City.
Portion of Gen. San Miguel St., Samson Road Heroes Del 96 Sts., Araneta Ave., Caimito, Nangka and Mango Roads from M. H. Del Pilar St. in Sangandaan, Caloocan City to McArthur Highway in Bgy. Potrero, Malabon City.
Portion of Caimito Road and University Ave. from Nangka Road to near Guava Road including J Tuazon Ave., Dunwoody, Edison Tech. and Brixton Tech. Sts. in University Hills Subd., Bgy. Potrero Malabon City

BETWEEN 11:00PM (THU., 05/26/05) AND 5:00AM (FRI., 05/27/05) – PORTION OF CIRCUITS MALABON 55YD AND 413YD
Portion of M. H. Del Pilar and A. Mabini Sts. from Meralco – Malabon substation along Lt. Leandro Roque St. in Bgy Tugatog, Malabon City to Gen. San Miguel in Sangandaan, Caloocan City.
REASON: Various maintenance work along M. H. Del Pilar St. in Bgy Tugatog, Malabon City.

FRIDAY, MAY 27, 2005

RIZAL PROVINCE (CAINTA)

BETWEEN 12:01AM AND 5:00AM – THE WHOLE OF CIRCUIT ST. ANTHONY 61ZN
Venus Steel Corporation and Midland Steel Corporation.
REASON: Maintenance work along M. H. del Pilar, Roxas and Kagitingan Sts in Marikina City.

SUNDAY, MAY 29, 2005

MANILA (STA. MESA)

BETWEEN 8:00AM AND 3:00PM – PORTION OF CIRCUIT PANDACAN 17M
Portion of Ramon Magsaysay Blvd. and Rail Road Track from Meralco-Pandacan substation to and including Loreta, M. Francisco, Valencia, Dela Fuente, V. G. Cruz, San Jose, Pureza, Lardizabal, Maganda, J. A. Santos, Araullo, C. Arellano, Alegria, Paltok, Hippodromo, Anonas, Aciete and A. Vitan Sts.
REASON: Preventive maintenance and testing work inside Meralco-Pandacan substation

BATANGAS

BETWEEN 8:00AM AND 3:00PM – THE WHOLE OF CIRCUITS BOLBOK 325ZV, 324ZV, 323ZV, 34ZV & 33ZV AND MAHABANG PARANG 32WZ
The whole of Batangas City and San Pascual.
REASON: Transco maintenance work inside NPC-Batangas substation.

CAVITE (CARMONA AND GMA) AND LAGUNA (BIÑAN)

BETWEEN 9:00AM AND 9:15AM AND THEN BETWEEN 2:45PM AND 3:00PM – PORTION OF CIRCUIT GMA 45XF
Along Governor Drive (Pala-Pala-Carmona Highway) from near Maguyam Road to and including Pacific Activated Carbon Compound, Socor Construction Corp. Asphalt Batching Plant, Welborne Industrial Subd., Pantagon Industries, Villa Concepcion, Global Lighting Phils., Mountview Industrial Subd. Phase 1 Phillip Morris Phils. – Carmona Warehouse and Southcoast Industrial Estate in Carmona, Cavite

BETWEEN 9:00AM AND 3:00PM – PORTION OF CIRCUITS GMA 41XF, 43XF AND 45XF
Along Manila Southwoods Road from Meralco-GMA substation to Governor Drive (Pala-Pala-Carmona Highway) including Mandarin Homes, Casa Monteverde Homes in GMA. Ecocentrum Splash Island and Manila Southwoods in Carmona, Cavite.
Portion of Magsaysay Road from Manila Southwoods Road to near Calindola Village including portion of Bgy. Magsaysay in Biñan, Laguna.
Along Governor Drive (Pala-Pala-Carmona Highway) from Carmona town proper to near Pacific Activated Carbon Compound including Manabat, Rosario, Torres, Mapando, Purificacion, Espiritu, Loyola, Wisdom, Honesty, Sugar, Peace, Gratitude, Humility, Grace, Glory, Joy, Justice, Mercy, Hope, Gladness Sts., Bgys. Mabuhay, Ulong Tubig, Milagrosa, portions of Bgys. Kabilang Baybay and Rosario. Cityland Carmona Heights, Loyola Compound, Carmona National High School, Carmona Municipal Hall, Fujica Pacific, Titan Megabag, Titan Megatiles and Manila Jockey Club (Turf Club and Race Track) in Carmona, Cavite.
REASON: Line rehabilitation work along Manila Southwoods Road in Carmona, Cavite.

MERALCO exerts all efforts to restore electric service as scheduled. However, there are instances when due to unavoidable circumstances, restoration may extend beyond the published schedule.
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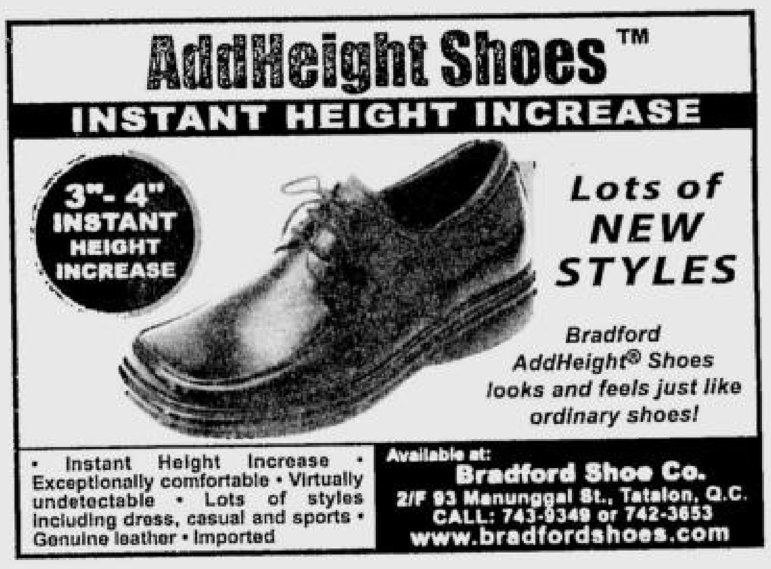

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France, Germany, Poland scramble to save EU charter

NANCY, France—The leaders of France, Germany and Poland were to join forces Thursday to save the European Union's embattled constitution, meeting in eastern France less than two weeks before the widely watched French referendum.

French President Jacques Chirac hoped his meeting with German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder and Polish President Aleksander Kwasniewski would send a message of European strength and unity to skeptical voters, his office said.

Polls have consistently shown that France is split down the middle over how to vote in its May 29 referendum on whether to ratify the treaty.

Among voter concerns are fears that the enlarged EU will hurt France's economy, its job market and French influence on the international stage. *AP*

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THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT COSMETIC SURGERY

When we talk about cosmetic surgery, things that come first in our minds are stars and celebrities that have undergone facelift, nose lift, breast enlargement, or liposuction. Oftentimes, the idea about it brings society condemnation, disapproval, and endless criticism. Contrary to these perceptions, cosmetic surgery was given birth not solely for glamorous and aesthetic purposes. Science found the light in cosmetic or plastic surgery to bring about hope to birth disfigurement and war caused deformities. Its noble purpose is to give hope for the unfortunate newborns to live normally and a new life for soldiers and war victims to restore their shattered faces and confidence.

Now, the concept on cosmetic surgery has been diversified. It is now being attributed to many things. Technology, social acceptance, awareness to various media outlets, and people of our new generation giving so much focus on health and fitness, led to the progression of wanting to look good and feel good at the same time. People have deemed cosmetic surgery is the answer to that.

What is Cosmetic Surgery?

Cosmetic Surgery is a subspecialty of medicine that focuses on the enhancement of appearance through surgical and medical techniques. It is specifically concerned with the maintaining of normal appearance, restoring it, or enhancing it beyond the average level toward some aesthetic ideal.

Things to CONSIDER before undergoing a surgery

Determine your purpose. Ask yourself why you want to have a plastic surgery. More than the aesthetic and even financial aspect of the treatment, do you think you are physically and emotionally prepared to accept a new you? Contemplate more and consider a lot of factors before surrendering yourself to the operating room.

Set realistic goals and expectation. Cosmetic surgery is not some sort of magical ritual or procedure. It is not some sort of spell that will fit the saying 'your wish is your surgeon's command'. Cosmetic surgery may be considered a spectacular medical aesthetic treatment but it also has its boundaries and limitations. Art and beauty as it may seem, still science coiled to it does not promise a perfect you. As defined earlier, cosmetic surgery is more confined on enhancement or restoration rather than change or transformation.

On finding the right surgeon. The criteria on finding the right if not, the best surgeon should be high and tough. ***We must be very careful in this particular category for in your decision lies the destiny of your face or your body.*** It is not only a matter of beauty and madness, but sometimes even of life and death. ***Special skill and knowledge are essential in the practice of plastic surgery. Basic requirement is that your surgeon should be a certified and licensed physician.*** Competency in the following fields like anatomy, physiology, pathology, and basic sciences are also plus factors. Your surgeon should also have subspecialty and knowledge in all contributing disciplines like facial plastic surgery, general surgery, and dermatology. In fact, international medical institutions are now giving emphasis on formally introducing a new branch of skin science called "dermatological cosmetic surgery". All in all, competency in cosmetic surgery implies a combination of knowledge, surgical judgment, technical expertise, and ethics in order to achieve the goal of providing aesthetic improvement.

While cosmetic surgery is an immensely positive experience for many people, we should know that there are advantages and disadvantages that may lie ahead. With the growing acceptance and openness to cosmetic surgery, it is also essential that we identify our purpose and not lose sight on the history of how it should be used.

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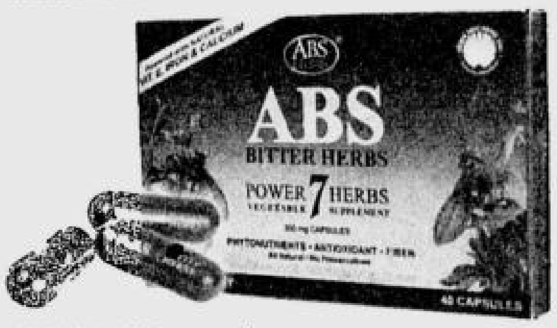
To help you know more about the procedure or service you are interested in, it would be best to discuss with the doctor/surgeon your needs and expectations. Call or visit Dermclinic's nearest branch now for a **FREE CONSULTATION** or contact their hotline through **818-6477** for inquiries.

About dermclinic

Dr. Vinson B. Pineda, a well - respected and internationally recognized dermatologist established Dermclinic more than 30 years ago and is now considered as an institution which has mastered the art and science of skin health and wellness. In fact Dermclinic, has been the learning ground of some notable dermatologists in town today.

"Aba, ABS Herbs na Ako!"

Herbal supplement products believer – Sen. Juan Flavier advocates the use of 7 local herbs endemic in the Philippines. The herbs include luyang dilaw, lagundi, ampalaya, malunggay, peppermint, sinta and saluyot. These herbs are combined together in ABS Bitter Herbs capsules which works synergistically to provide all the essential plant vitamins and minerals, anti-oxidants and fiber that the body needs to survive the onslaught of diseases.The senator a former doctor to the barrio regularly takes the product every morning before proceeding to his office in the Senate. He says "hindi ako umaalis ng bahay na hindi umiinom ng ABS Bitter Herbs capsule." Flavier emphasized that herbs and vegetables are a low-cost and safe complement or alternative to high priced medicines in helping cure common or debilitating ailments. He says that at the onset, Filipinos should eat lots of vegetables and fruits, drink plenty of water to detoxify the body of toxins, exercise regularly, quit smoking and live a stress-free life. The senator's campaign is embodied in his new slogan "Mag-gulay para humaba ang buhay!" to encourage Filipinos to use herbs and vegetables to keep them healthy. ABS Bitter Herbs capsule is fully packed with vitamins and minerals specifically natural vitamin E, iron and calcium. ABS Herbs is the only Philippine herbal supplement company listed by the NSF International - The Public Health and Safety Company. The product is available at Mercury Drug and leading drugstores nationwide.



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Sumatra quake shook Earth's surface everywhere, experts say

WASHINGTON—December's great Sumatra-Andaman earthquake—the most powerful in more than 40 years and the trigger of a devastating tsunami—shook the ground everywhere on Earth's surface, scientists have found. Weeks later the planet was still trembling.

The quake resulted from the longest fault rupture ever observed—1,160 km to 1,250 km, which spread for 10 minutes, also a record. A typical earthquake's duration would be 30 seconds.

The December quake was the first of its size to be measured and studied by the new worldwide array of digital seismic instruments.

Those results are starting to come in, with a special section of a half-dozen research papers on the quake appearing in Friday's issue of the journal Science.

"This is really a watershed event. We've never had such comprehensive data for a great earthquake because we didn't have the instrumentation to gather it 40 years ago," said Thorne Lay, professor of Earth sciences and director of the Institute of Geophysics and Planetary Physics at the University of California, Santa Cruz.

"It is nature at its most formidable," Lay said in a statement.

The earthquake and resulting tsunami, which swept across the Indian Ocean, killed more than 176,000 people in 11 countries and left about 50,000 missing and hundreds of thousands homeless.

The quake occurred where two of the giant plates that form the surface of the Earth grind together.

At that spot the Eurasian plate was being pulled downward by the descending Indo-Australian plate. The quake released the edge of the Eurasian plate, which sprang up, lifting the ocean floor and sending the sea water off in the giant wave that killed so many, the researchers reported.

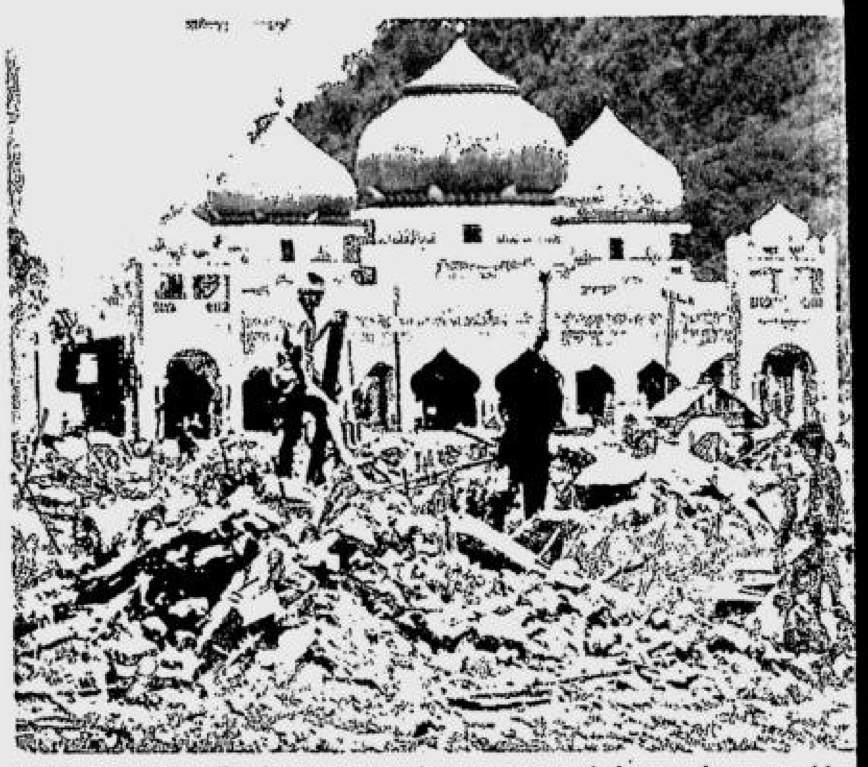
They said the higher sea floor displaced so much water from the Bay of Bengal and the Andaman Sea that sea level worldwide was raised 0.1 mm.

"No point on Earth remained undisturbed," wrote Roger Bilham of the University of Colorado.

Indeed, ground movement of as much as 1 cm occurred everywhere on Earth's surface, though it was too small to be felt in most areas.

And the temblor "delivered a blow to our planet" that was felt for weeks, noted a team of researchers led by Jeffrey Park of Yale University.

His group calculated that the quake caused the planet to oscillate like a bell, at periods of about 17 minutes, which they were able to measure for weeks afterward. A similar phenomenon was first noted in the 1960 quake in Chile. *AP*



MEN from Aceh collecting scrap metal near a mosque in Lampuuk, an area hit by the Dec. 26, 2004 tsunami, on the outskirts of Banda Aceh in the Indonesian Aceh province in this April 4, 2005 picture. REUTE

MINOGUE performing on stage at the Hallenstadium in Zurich, Switzerland, in this June 6, 2002 photo. AP

Kylie's cancer has not spread, says manager

SYDNEY—Australian pop superstar Kylie Minogue will undergo surgery for breast cancer this week but tests so far show that the cancer does not appear to have spread, her management said Thursday.

"Kylie is currently undergoing tests at a first-class medical facility in Melbourne in preparation for an operation this week by one of Australia's leading surgeons," manager Terry Blamey said in a statement.

"Thankfully tests so far have confirmed the earlier diagnosis that the cancer appears to be confined to the breast." Minogue, who was diagnosed with early-stage breast cancer this week, thanked fans for their support.

Thousands of people have bombarded websites to express their support while a stream of well-wishers has continued to turn up at the Minogue family home in suburban Melbourne bearing flowers, letters and gifts.

"My heartfelt thanks to the incredible number of people who have sent messages of love and support over the last two days," the entertainer said in a statement.

"I want to reassure you that I am being well taken care of."

The operation is expected to take place at Melbourne's Cabrini Hospital, reports said.

Minogue, 36, is with her boyfriend, French actor Olivier Martinez, and her parents Ron and Carol. Brother Brendan is also believed to be with the singer while her sister Dannii is understood to be heading to Melbourne from London.

"Olivier is by my side and I have a lot of family and friends around me," Minogue said.

"I would also like to extend my best wishes to all of the other women around Australia and around the world who are dealing with the same illness."

Minogue's illness has forced her to call off the Asian and Australian legs of her successful Showgirl tour which were due to kick off in Sydney on Thursday.

The fact that the cancer does not appear to have spread means her chances of beating the disease are much higher, said Helen Zorbas, director of the National Breast Cancer Center.

"We know that the chances of survival are very significantly improved if the cancer hasn't spread to other parts of the body at the time of the diagnosis," she said. "So this is very, very good news."

Zorbas said that for a young woman who has caught the disease early, the chances of having no recurrence of the disease within five years were close to 90 percent.

"But it doesn't mean something terrible happens after five years... it's just a measure that we use," she said.

Kylie will likely undergo surgery to have the cancer removed followed by either chemotherapy, hormone therapy or radiotherapy or a combination of these options, Zorbas said.

The singer, who found fame in the 1980s in the soap opera 'Neighbors' before beginning a pop career and subsequently launching her own underwear line, has sold an estimated 40 million records and has a huge following in Britain and around the world. *AFP*

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Abuse drove Indonesia maids to kill Singapore employer, say lawyers

SINGAPORE—Lawyers for two young Indonesian maids who confessed to killing a Singaporean employer tried Thursday to save their clients from possible execution, claiming mental anguish from abuse pushed them to kill.

Juminem, 20, and 17-year-old Siti Aminah are accused of murdering Esther Ang Imm Suan, Juminem's employer, in March last year by suffocating her with a pillow and bludgeoning her with a wine bottle.

"Reactive depression. Brought about by six months of degrading physical and emotional abuse," Juminem's lawyer, Jimmy Yim, said in closing arguments.

Yim is asking the court to reduce the charge of murder, which carries a mandatory death sentence, to the charge of culpable homicide. If they are charged with culpable homicide, they face up to 10 years in jail.

Juminem endured constant verbal and physical abuse from Ang, who slapped her, hit her with a television remote control, and fined her if she made mistakes in her work, her lawyer said.

"Given that she suffered so badly under the hands of her employer, she shouldn't be given the full punishment," Yim said. "Here was a classic situation: she was in a pressure cooker."

Siti Aminah's lawyers said Ang also abused her.

Juminem's diaries, which detailed her employer's alleged abuse, formed a major part of the evidence submitted by her lawyer.

The two-month trial has frequently been interrupted, once when Siti Aminah began mumbling incoherently and doctors who examined her said the trial had taken a toll on her mental health. On Thursday, Siti fell asleep in court, prompting Judge Choo Han Teck to adjourn briefly. *AP*

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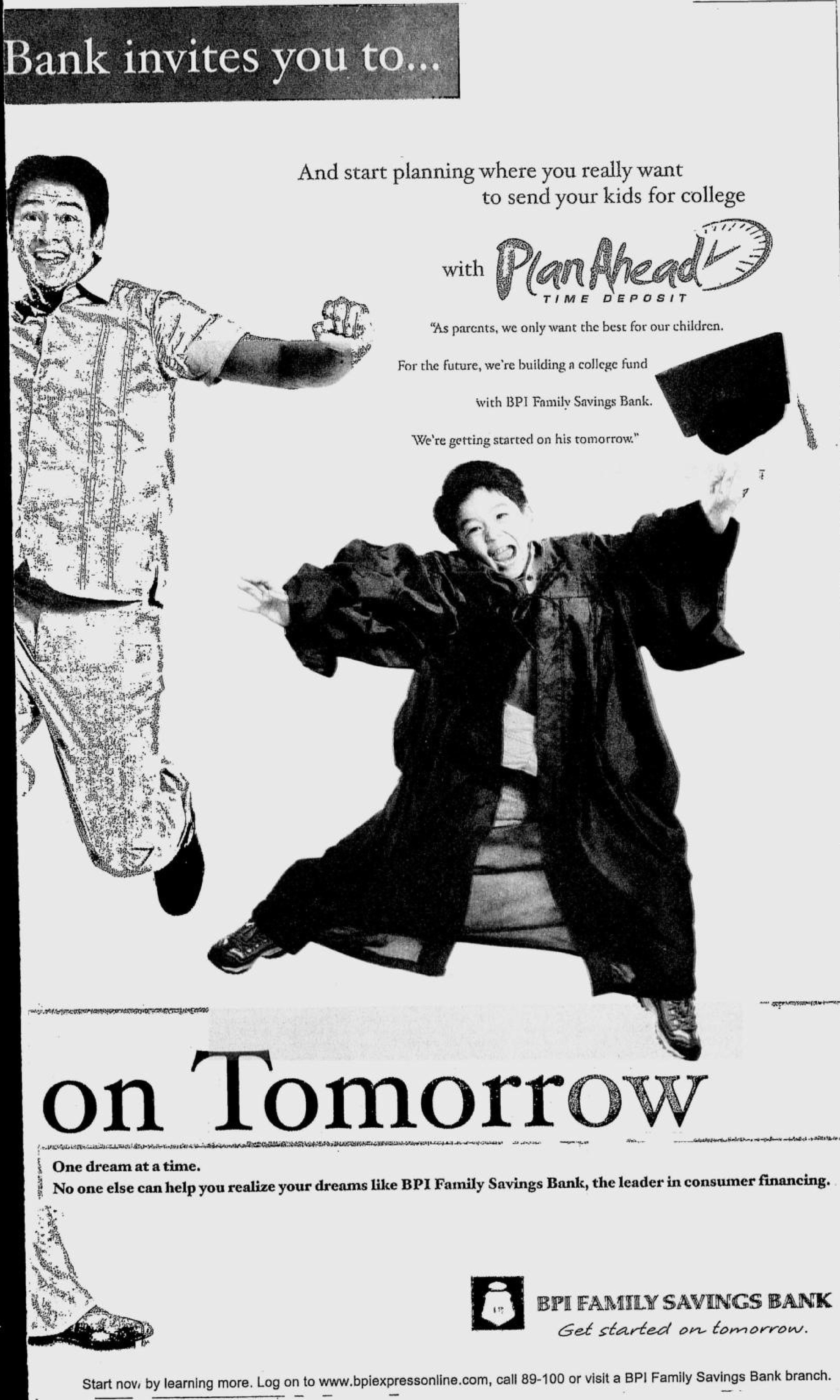
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Vol. 20 No. 161
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•P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City
•Our telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments
•Editorial Fax 897-4793 / 897-4794 •Advertising 897-4807
•Circulation 527-3342 / 527-3348 / 528-0183 / 528-0186 and 528-0213 / Fax: 528-02-34.
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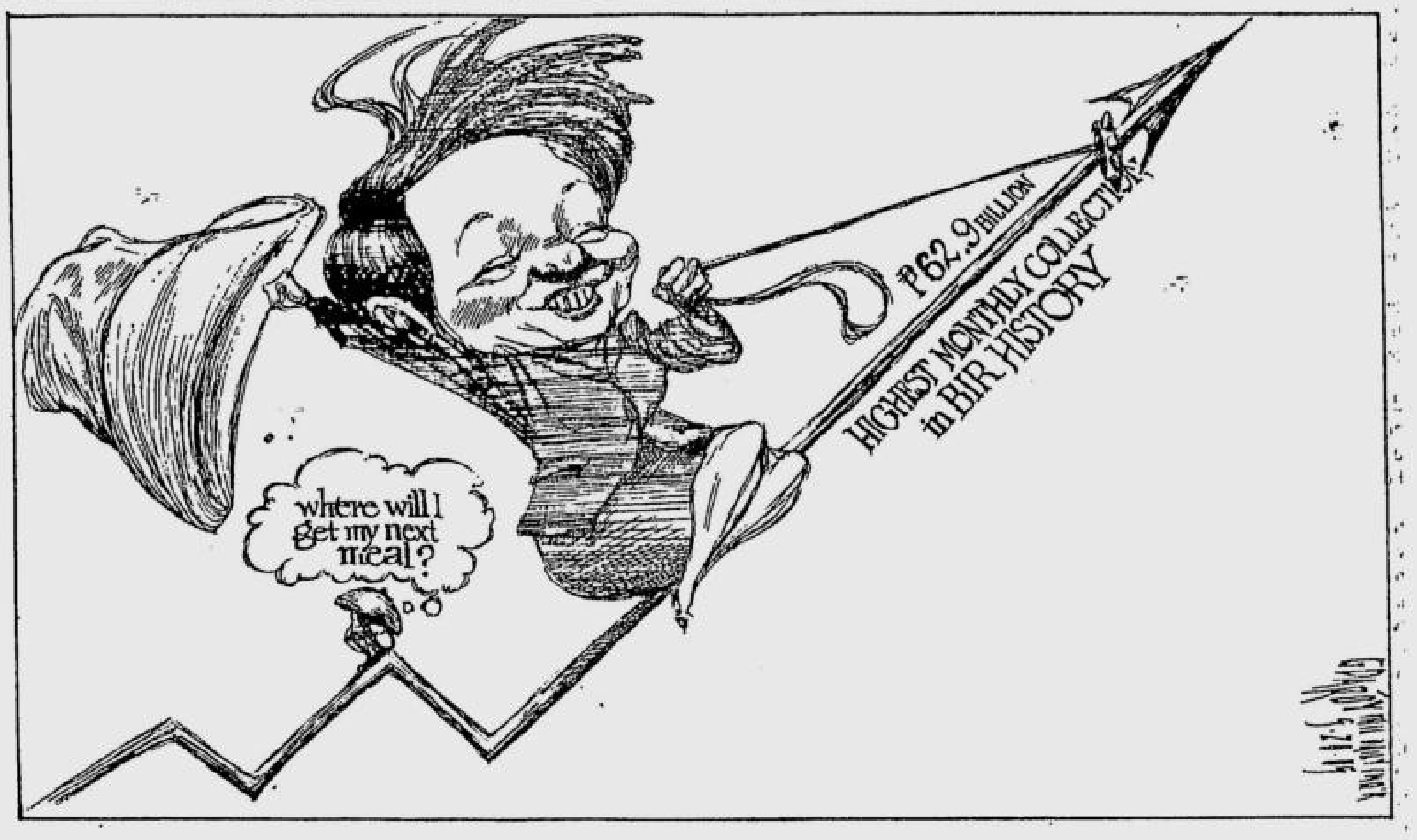
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EDITORIAL

SEN. Lito Lapid does not get it. After making a name for himself in the movies playing the role of the sensitive good guy quick with the gun against insensitive bad guys, he has neither been sensitive nor quick enough to get the point why he should inhibit himself from any Senate inquiry on *jueteng*.

But he seems overly sensitive enough to take offense at the suggestion of Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. for him not to chair or even remotely participate in the illegal gambling hearings. Pimentel said the inquiry should be led by somebody with "clean hands." Rather than take the indirect reference to him in an objective manner, Lapid immediately rose to challenge Pimentel if he was being referred to.

But, of course, Pimentel was referring to Lapid. It takes parliamentary comportment for a senator to make indirect references in order that sensibilities would not be hurt while not compromising his position or watering down his conviction. And it takes the same comportment for the one referred to to take the insinuation in good grace.

Lapid did not take Pimentel's remarks in good grace. Nor did he relent and pass on the chairmanship of the inquiry to another lawmaker with a less controversial record to handle illegal gambling issues. One wishes he had taken the criticism like a good sport.

But alas, there's no such thing as deportment or delicadeza in the Senate. Not when it involves narrow interests and personal aggrandizement. This is evident in the rather surly manner Lapid dismissed Pimentel's request. He didn't even have the awareness to put his acting skills to work in order not to appear overeager in personally handling the investigation on jueteng. Not only does he lack delicadeza; he's also a poor actor.

Lapid must realize that if he cannot be a good actor, he should at least be a proper parliamentarian. And decorum and ethics require that somebody who, by blood or affiliation, is perceived to have a proprietary interest in an issue should inhibit himself in parliamentary processes dealing on it.

And Lapid has more than a perceived proprietary interest when it comes to *jueteng*. He himself acknowledges that he has had dealings with suspected *jueteng* operators, such as the Pinedas of Pampanga, where he was governor for many years. And Pampanga has been tagged by antijueteng campaigners and by Catholic bishops as a *jueteng* haven.

Lapid may have a more positive impression about Pampanga and the Pinedas, but this is irrelevant to the issue. The fact is that there's a general perception that *jueteng* operations have grown apparently under the noses of the police and officials so that any inquiry in aid of legislation should be handled by legislators who do not have the slightest hint of history of condoning illegal gambling.

Lapid, by virtue of his being a former governor of Pampanga, is perceived as the wrong person to handle the inquiry. Because *jueteng* grew by leaps and bounds when he was governor, his hands are sullied. This is the public perception, whether he likes it or not. This is apparent whether or not his defenders, such as Senators Panfilo Lacson and Richard Gordon, demand that he be given a chance to prove himself.

In the first place, Lapid should prove that he has the senatorial sensitivity to welcome criticism and even questions about his integrity and objectivity. A neophyte senator, he should have taken the questions raised by a senior senator with the humility of somebody trying to learn the workings of the Senate. But not having finished school, he apparently does not know the value of a little education.

So does Lapid have anything to prove at all? Obviously he has nothing anymore to prove. He's a failure both as an actor and a lawmaker.

But we cannot risk another failure in our failed governance, in our failed legislation. Lapid may exhibit the churlishness of a brat, and he can even throw a tantrum. That's his privilege. but he should not be allowed to infect the body politic with his egregious insensitivity and his gross ignorance of the minimum parliamentary requirement for unassailable conduct.

Lapid should realize that by his irresponsible conduct, he has reinvented himself as actor. The roles have been reversed. He is not anymore the good guy. But then who knows, he may finally win an acting award by playing the bad guy that he may ultimately be.

Please save fire trees on MacArthur Highway

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

MAY is the month of flowers, and blooms of all shapes, sizes, colors, shades and scents vie for attention. But none attracts more attention with their profusion and hot colors that match the hot summer sun than the bougainvillea and the king of them all, the fire tree.

Peeking over fences, climbing trellises and trees, serving as hedges or, in flower pots lining walks, the bougainvillea, with either single or multiple petals, enlivens any place with their red, orange, scarlet or white blooms. The blooms are not really flowers but leaves, brightly colored to attract insects to pollinate the small white flowers that are not blessed with strong perfumes as most small flowers are.

The red-orange blossoms of the regal fire tree, also perfume-less, you see from far off, standing out from the other green trees, as though it is on fire. You can see them even from a low-flying airplane.

If you have fire trees in your yard or in your neighborhood, the unfurling of the first few red blossoms always makes your heart leap. As the bright summer days wear on, the blossoms get more numerous, their colors brighter, the trees and the neighborhoods more beautiful.

I have a few fire trees in my front and backyards. They're still small and have only started to bloom, but every morning when I open my eyes, the first thing I see are the red blossoms looking in at me through the windows as if greeting, "Good morning. Wake up, sleepy head. The sun is up. Don't waste the day in bed."

So I greet back, "Good morning to you, too. You're getting more beautiful each day." And a gust of wind catches the branch with the blossoms and it scratches the windowpanes and I get out of bed to shower. When I drive away later, the small fire trees in front wave their tiny blossoms goodbye.

There are many fire trees in our adjacent forest park, but the bigger ones have only just begun to bloom. When the others grow bigger and bloom, too, you can look down from an airplane and point at the red rash in the landscape and say, "There's our park. That's where I live."

Driving down T.M. Kalaw Street in Tierra Pura, there are several fire trees there in full bloom, and when you turn left to Tierra Bella, there are several more there, resplendently crowned in red. As you exit the Tierra Bella gate, a fire tree inside the New Era Hospital grounds greets you, and farther north on Tandang Sora, there are several more.

Driving around the Quezon Memorial Circle these days is risky because your attention is attracted by so many blooming fire trees inside the park. The same with the nearby Ninoy Aquino Park where the fire trees are even more beautiful.

The fire trees inside the Kidney Center grounds have just started to bloom, but as the days go on and more of them bloom, this place will be on fire. Across the street, the fire trees inside the City Hall compound are already in bloom.

Drive around the Diliman campus of the University of the Philippines and you will be awed by the numerous fire trees there. But before you can even get to the first one, you will be awed by the row of big sunflowers lining University Avenue. The huge round yellow flowers bow and wave as you pass by like so many Van Gogh canvases.

If you like to see more fire trees in bloom and you have the time, drive around the UP campus in Los Baños. There are many big fire trees there that must be in full bloom now.

If you drive around Laguna Lake, there are more. When you reach the town of Cardona in Rizal, look out to the south. You will see an island on fire in the middle of the lake. That is Cielito Lindo owned by the Bello family. Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Bello planted the whole island with fire trees when they were young, and now when the trees are in bloom, you can see them even from far away.

It is not all red in the May landscape, however. You will see yellow blossoms cascading down the branches of tall thin trees. They are called golden shower, a very apt name.

Then you will see many small white flowers dotting a glistening dark green background of leaves. That is the *kalachuchi*. You will also see its flowers in red, pink, yellow, and yellow-white. They are not only beautiful, they are also fragrant. Walk under a *kalachuchi* and you will think you are walking beside a perfumed lady

* * *

If you drive down MacArthur Highway, there is a stretch lined with about 100 fire trees. The trees are in bloom now and they are breathtaking, but the Department of Public Works and Highways wants to cut them down, even while they are still in beautiful bloom. It has already applied to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources for permission to kill them. If Environment Secretary Michael Defensor gives the permission, he will surely not be confirmed by the Commission on Appointments because more environmental NGOs will join the legion of other environmentalists already opposing his confirmation.

Why does the DPWH want to cut down such beautiful creations of God? Because it is widening MacArthur Highway and the trees are in the way.

But the highway can still be widened without cutting the trees. The line of trees can be made into an island and the street widened on the other side. The same thing was earlier done on Quezon Avenue in Quezon City to save the line of mahogany trees there as well as to the line of centuries-old acacia trees on Katipunan Avenue (behind the UP Diliman campus) that will be widened into C-5.

Or they can be balled and replanted elsewhere, like Commonwealth Avenue in Quezon City.

(More on this later.)

Coups and karmic justice

PASSION FOR REASON

Raul C. Pangalangan

COUPS hurt us when they fail. They unsettle our lives, put business plans on hold and distress the economy.

But listen. Coups hurt us even when they triumph in a blaze of good intentions. They short-circuit our democracy, weaken our institutions, and retard our political maturity as a people.

I am concerned less about the Machiavellian politicking amongst power bidders, and there are many of them, including those who came out with full-page ads a few days ago and those who speak of potential plotters in the military. I cannot blame them. We are beset by a sense of drift, a malaise that has made the authoritarian temptation tempting once again, and the May 2004 elections have not erased the stain of illegitimacy as many had hoped. The on-going *jueteng* and corruption exposés are building to a crescendo and counteract every step forward to raise tax revenues needed for welfare programs. "The mass of men lead lives of quiet desperation," said Henry David Thoreau in "Walden."

I am more concerned about the flourishing of the fragile democracy that we regained at Edsa I, using Plato's metaphor in his "Republic," about politics "writ large," or as modern academics say, Politics with a capital P.

How do we reckon the true costs of taking political short-cuts each time we realize we made a mistake? People think that democracy is all about the sovereign people making the decisions. No, it is also about the sovereign people paying the price when they make stupid decisions. If what it means is having to wait until the next elections, we as a people must charge it to experience and suffer the pain in silence.

That was the real tragedy at Edsa II: we did not let our institutions do their work. That is why it was necessary to demonize Erap, to tell everyone, "Hey, guys, he's so bad, it's all right to cut corners." Don't you find it significant that the term "legal gobbledygook" entered the Filipino lexicon during the impeachment trial? The real problem then is that the ghosts of Edsa II have returned to haunt us today; it is karma catching up on us.

Never mind the nightmare that began on Sept. 21, 1972, when martial law was declared. It was effectively a coup by the executive branch against the other branches of government. President Ferdinand Marcos padlocked Congress, and nobody took up the cudgels for the newly unemployed legislators. Unmourned and unlamented, many had lost credibility, their pork barrel was a drain on the meager treasury, and their antics, a test of forbearance. Martial law was initially accepted as the way out of the chaos and disorder that followed the reelection of Marcos, as profligate election spending took its toll on the economy and unleashed political tempests.

Today we see these signs of the times anew, but this experience merely presents the classic argument against coups: that they are merely the first step toward despotism and its myriad evils like human rights abuses and the plunder of the public wealth. That much we know already.

Today the real argument against another extra-constitutional foray into Malacañang is that democratic governance requires respect for institutions. It is strange to have to counsel patience to Filipinos, legendary in forgiving and with a demonstrated track record for enduring the harshness of life. But democracy requires that we stand by decisions we make and bear the consequences until the next elections. We will never learn if, each time we err, we jettison the mistake out of Malacañang.

On the other hand, taking the effort to make institutions work is part of the democratic experiment. Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr. said the constitution is "an experiment, as all life is an experiment. Every year, if not every day, we wager our salvation upon some prophecy based on imperfect knowledge." It is the yearning for the perfect that is the true enemy of the good.

But there is a weak underbelly to this learn-from-your-mistakes argument against coups. One, our crises are too severe to be kept at bay and they call for rapid democratic experiments, too rapid to be kept waiting as we learn our lessons. This is the "crash course" counter-argument, which says that it is not exactly a good time to lecture on safety measures when the Titanic is already sinking.

Two, the student is slow: We, the People, are collectively "*mababa ang low IQ*" when it comes to the lessons of history, the equivalent of Asia's political retard, the global village idiot in our neck of the woods. (Thank God, there's North Korea and Burma, lest we readily win that crown of ignominy.) Others might instantly recognize today a déjà vu of September 1972. Nonchalant us, we hum with Simon and Garfunkel, "Don't know much about history,… don't know much about the rise and fall, don't know much about nothing at all."

Finally, perhaps the extra-constitutional path is in fact part of the lesson and, the one lesson we students learn best. Pedagogically speaking, different students learn their lessons in different ways. Perhaps we as a people know the world viscerally, not intellectually, and the two Edsa People Power exercises taught us the meaning of "political accountability" better than a hundred boring lectures.

Some people learn about fire by reading or by watching. We learn about fire by burning.

(Comments to raulcp@info.com.ph)

Killings can destabilize government

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

LAST May 10, an armed group shot and killed Mayor Leon Arcillas of Santa Rosa, Laguna, inside the city hall where he had officiated at a wedding. The assassination touched off a gun battle between the mayor's bodyguards and the assailants—said to be two men and a woman—in which one of the mayor's bodyguard was killed and another was wounded.

The Philippine National Police blamed the audacious killings on the communist. According to Marcelino Franco, head of the PNP Special Action Group, Arcillas had sought police protection after receiving death threats from New People's Army guerrillas who were said to have been angered by the death of a labor group member during a police-assisted demolition of illegal structures in the city.

Arcillas escaped an earlier assassination attempt on July 7, 2003, when a man riding a motorcycle fired at him as he was heading home from a homeowners' association meeting in a village.

Arcillas' assassination came six days after a radio broadcaster, Klein Cantoneros, was fatally shot eight times on May 4, in Pagadian City, by three unidentified men, bringing up to 69 the number of Filipino journalists murdered since 1986.

Although the circumstances which surrounded the assassination of Arcillas and of the journalists were entirely different, the wave of cold-blooded murders represents one of the worst breakdowns of law and order in the country since the late 1960s when it was walking on the edge of a national emergency that culminated in the proclamation of martial law in 1972.

Arcillas was a person in public authority, the journalists were not. He was murdered, if we are to believe police accounts, in the line of duty—that is, for clearing up illegal structures, an action that was certain to provoke resentment from squatters. The journalists, it would seem, were killed in pursuit of their occupation of uncovering venalities by officeholders.

Arcillas' assassination should be more shocking to the government than the murder of journalists since it represents a blatant and direct assault on public authority, heightened by the fact that it was carried out inside the premises of the seat of a municipal government no less.

If, indeed, the NPA was responsible for the assassination, it simply underlined the inability of the national government to protect its own officials, as well as its inability to use the state's monopoly of the means of violence to protect ordinary citizens from criminal assaults. If law-enforcement agencies and the judicial system are unable to exact retribution for Arcillas' assassination, this impotence has chilling implications for the national government. A regime which cannot carry out punishment for crimes invites assaults on and defiance of higher levels of authority—not least the national government—and encourages the perception among lawless groups that the central government is so weak it cannot defend itself from challenges to its authority, not excluding coup attempts.

The national government, which has been busy fending off allegations of corruption and concerned about the success of its tax reform program during the past few months, does not seem to realize that the breakdown of law and order and the erosion of the majesty of public authority have become serious concerns in the same way as public discontent over rising prices of basic commodities and the fiscal deficit.

Until a few months ago, the government had been quite effective in putting under control the wave of kidnapping for ransom and bank robberies, but this new wave of assassinations of officials and murders of journalists represents a more politically menacing trend that can destabilize the government and set it up for more dangerous challenges from forces seeking to seize state power from a weak government.

This new crime wave comes as a threat to political stability as serious as the breakdown of law and order in the late 1960s and early 1970s, on the eve of the declaration of martial law. During that period, President Ferdinand Marcos faced social unrest spilling on to the streets of urban centers (for example, the student and leftist and nationalist activism) from the agrarian hotbeds of peasant rebellion, a recalcitrant Congress that blocked many of his key legislative programs, the heightening communist insurgency, and the lawlessness of the Right represented by the political warlords who had gone out of control. This milieu of political and social turmoil provided the setting for the clamor for a strong government. It provided the excuse and justification for Marcos to respond to the clamor.

Of course, Marcos did not have to contend with coup plots of disgruntled generals and colonels, since at the time he had consolidated control of the Armed Forces by engaging them in the war against the communist insurgents and in civic-action and infrastructure projects. The plot to seize power and to extend his term beyond the 1960s emanated not from the soldiers but from Marcos himself.

The instability facing the Arroyo administration offers a strong temptation to coup plotting and conspiracies, which find fertile soil in the weakness of government and in the fact that President Macapagal-Arroyo is highly dependent for the survival of her government on military support. Marcos in the 1960s was not as dependent on the military.

Ms Arroyo's dependence on the military is more pronounced because she has failed to establish control over the political institutions, especially Congress which should be her natural ally in view of the majority held by her political coalition.

It's not just about Bro. Eli

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

ON THE SURFACE, the dispute between "Brother" Eli Soriano of "Ang Dating Daan" fame and the leaders of the Iglesia ni Cristo, with the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB) figuring in the fracas, is nothing but a tempest in a teacup.

Soriano is best known as the host of a number of TV and radio shows, the best known of which is "Ang Dating Daan," where he takes questions from the audience on biblical and doctrinal matters. For non-followers and most folks who go to bed early, though, their knowledge of Soriano and "Ang Dating Daan" stems mainly from a spoof comedy act popularized a few years ago in the TV comedy show "Bubble Gang."

Less known about Soriano, though, is that he is the presiding minister of a local Christian sect (with chapters abroad, they say), known as the Church of God in Christ Jesus. Even less known is that the Church of God in Christ Jesus, registered as an independent church in 1936, was founded by the late Nicholas Perez who used to belong to the Iglesia ni Cristo.

"It's not true that I used to be an Iglesia," says Soriano during a dinner interview. "How could I be one, when I was born into our church?"

What is true, though, is that the Church of God and the Iglesia, founded by Eraño Manalo and now wielding considerable political influence because it promises to deliver "block votes," are locked in a vociferous and contentious struggle. The dispute centers not just on differing and even contradictory doctrinal stances, but also on accusations of membership "poaching" and alleged financial and moral shenanigans.

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IN PERSON, Soriano comes across as a genial and even soft-spoken individual, inquiring gently from the waiters whether the dishes they're setting before him contain cholesterol because he's on a diet.

But on TV, and in full preacher bore, Soriano can be quite fiery, even offensive at times. He is not above calling his opponents and other religious bodies, including the Catholic Church, names ("*gago*," "*tanga*" are among the more printable epithets he spews) and challenging them to live debates and biblical showdowns. But it's for using a relatively innocuous term, at least from my point of view, that Soriano now finds himself a "televangelist" banned from appearing on television.

Last April 28, the Iglesia ni Cristo formally complained before the MTRCB that Soriano had used the term "Iglesia ni Manalo" in referring to their church. After a hearing, the adjudication committee concluded that the use of the term "Iglesia ni Manalo" was "defamatory or at least destructive of the name of 'Iglesia ni Cristo' as a duly registered religious organization."

In his defense, Soriano's side countered that the references were made in good faith and that there was no malicious intent in uttering them, a defense dismissed by the committee.

As a consequence, Soriano was permanently enjoined from referring to INC as "Iglesia ni Manalo," at least on air. In addition, the board suspended from airing for 30 days four shows that featured Soriano in various cable channels.

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SORIANO and his senior advisers claim that his broadsides against the Iglesia were "only" in retaliation for personal attacks aired on TV by INC commentators, specifically in a show called "Ang Tamang Daan." Videotapes prepared by Soriano's camp show the three commentators, one of whom is an INC minister, accusing "Brother" Eli of stealing from his followers and of committing frustrated murder, among various personal sins.

Anyway, as a senior Church of God minister explains, they interpreted the MTRCB suspension order as referring to the four shows enumerated in the committee's decision. "So we decided to produce entirely new and different shows with Brother Eli," he says.

This didn't sit well with the MTRCB which, in contrast with its foot-dragging on more controversial and even racy matters, acted swiftly to swipe down this instance of what it called "fearless insolence." In an order dated May 12, MTRCB Chair Consoliza Laguardia suspended "indefinitely" the respondents, most prominently Eli Soriano, "from appearing in any programs broadcast or aired over any free and/or cable television."

Such a sweeping order prevents Soriano from even appearing as a guest on any TV program, and when Soriano says this is a curtailment of his right to free speech, I can't but agree. It also sets a dreadful precedent and presents a threat to all who believe in the right to free speech and thought, not just tart-tongued televangelists.

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ANY order issued by the MTRCB or any state body including the courts sets a precedent, having an impact not just on the case at hand but on future cases.

If we let the MTRCB order stand undisputed, especially with a frightful piece of legislation like the proposed anti-terrorist law waiting in the wings, anyone could conceivably be banned from appearing on radio and TV on the mere say-so of the MTRCB. Imagine the glee of current administration officials who can now use this precedent to silence any and all critics, especially bleeding-heart human rights activists. Any remark, whether said in insolence or humor, can now be interpreted as offensive as long as someone complains to the MTRCB about it.

Soriano's silencing is certainly no tempest in a teapot, but a harbinger of a major typhoon.

Having said all of the above, let me just say I think calling people unpleasant names on TV is condemnable, especially in the context of religious belief about which most people are extremely sensitive. But as the saying goes: "I may not believe in what you say, but I will defend your right to say it." Free speech is a basic human right and, as it turns out, we have to fight for it, for everyone.

'Ngek!'

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

WHEN students ask for guidelines on their research papers, I reply by saying that they should use as many primary sources as they can. Then, they should give me something new, preferably something I don't know.

The last requirement always elicits an audible groan, forcing me to explain that, contrary to popular belief, I am not Ernie Baron. I'm not a walking encyclopedia and, modesty aside, I definitely look better. (My mother will back me on this anytime.)

One bit of humbling advice I learned from post-graduate school is that we should never be smug about knowing anything and everything about our area of expertise because there will always be an obscure German academic who has written on the topic long before we even stepped into a classroom. For this reason, we are left with a limited number of options for dissertation topics.

How specialized can one get than "Timber cutting in colonial Burma" or "The significance of names of Russian horses in 18th-century St. Peterburg"? The academic world is so small it is quite a challenge to find a topic nobody has tackled before. At one point, I actually considered the following only to be told they have been done already: "A history of early Hungarian cabinet-making," "Chronology of the Pharaohs of Lower Egypt," and, would you believe, "Leg-jiggling (*kuyakoy*) among Quezon City youths in 1965."

To survey the range of topics studied, all you have to do is scan the academic journals in university libraries. Then you realize that very little seems to be unknown in the world today and yet we have not reached utopia. At best, academic journals will affirm the unfair stereotype about those who know more and more about less and less.

I remember seeing an article on "Yaya English" in a journal years ago. Although I thought it was an original piece of work, I did not read it at the time. Now decades later, I realize that what started as a purely intellectual exercise is now relevant in the light of the thousands of Pinoy nannies we have exported world-wide. I even asked Bencab to do me a painting based on a photograph of a *yaya* in the early 20th century carrying a cute Caucasian baby. I already had a title for the painting that is yet to come: "Contemporary History" because it seems that a century after that photograph was taken many Filipinas are still *yayas*. Bencab has finished a drawing, but when that will be developed into his famous "Larawan" paintings, one cannot tell.

A friend recently sent me a copy of a dictionary of "Filipino English," part of a series that acknowledges that the English spoken around the world differs from that in England or the United States, which is slowly being referred to as "American." Foreigners say we speak a peculiar brand of "American." A Malaysian journalist told me that the way a child speaks is an indicator not just of the nanny but also socio-economic class.

Filipina nannies are the best and the most expensive in Kuala Lumpur, thus, upper-class Malaysian children speak English with a Filipino accent, while middle-class ones speak with an Indonesian accent.

It is only when we are abroad or when foreigners hear us that we stop to notice the kind of English we speak. A friend who owns a school in Laguna prides herself on their speak-English-only policy that led to some amusing situations. Walking by a noisy classroom one day, she overheard one of the students say, "Shhh...lola has just passed away." Ngek!

Another time a student raised his hand and said, "Father, Mother, Me." The teacher asked, "What?" The student repeated more emphatically "Father, Mother, Me!" Puzzled the teacher asked again," What? I don't understand." The student now desperate shouted "Father, Mother, Me!!" Translation: *Tatay, Ina, Ako*. Read that quickly and you will definitely exclaim "Ngek!"

This true story comes from my favorite aunt in Pampanga who overheard the following telephone exchange one morning:

Caller: Hello, *andiyan ba si* Mr. Ocampo?
Maid: *Opo.*
Caller: *Pwede ko ba makausap?*
Maid: *Opo, pero sino pong* Mr. Ocampo *ang gusto nyong makausap, ang babae o ang lalake?*

Ngek!

The same aunt related a time when they gave the maid money one Sunday to buy three newspapers (in the order of importance): INQUIRER, Star and Bulletin.

The maid returned with the papers and said, "*Ate wala pong* INQUIRER *at* Star, *kaya eto bumili ako ng tatlong* Bulletin." Ngek!

Surely there are more stories of this kind waiting to be told and compiled, but of late a list of Filipino expressions has been making the rounds of e-mail and is called, "*Mga sablay na hirit...*" Although I have overheard a number in everyday conversation, some sound like they were lifted from Nestor Torre's long-running "Boob tube boo boos" or seem to be quotable quotes from Melanie Marquez. I share some of them here, knowing that these will one day be elevated to full academic scrutiny. For the moment just read and exclaim, "Ngek!"

"Drink your own dose."
"Eat your chicken pride."
"Been there, been that."
"Burn the bridge when you get there."
"Annulled and void."
"Mute and academic."
"Right there and right then."
"You can never can tell."
"What's your next class before this?"
"Give him the benefit of the daw."

At a McDonald's outlet, "How much is the kidney meal?"

"You're barking at the wrong dog."
"In the wink of an eye."

(Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu)

'Jam karet'

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

THE INDONESIANS have something called *jam karet*, "jam" meaning time and "karet" meaning rubber.

We often refer to "Filipino time" to mean our frequently being late for classes, meetings, even flights. I saw a lot of that in Indonesia, especially when I guest-lectured at the University of Indonesia for a week. Students would walk in nonchalantly at 11 a.m. for a class that was supposed to start at 9. *Jam karet*, my fellow Indonesian professors sighed, but said there was little that could be done about it.

But with time, seeing more of rubber time, I realized *jam karet* wasn't just tardiness. There was more, a rubber-like flexibility in the handling of time which, depending on the situation, can be frustrating, infuriating or just plain fascinating in the way it shows how different cultures structure and conceptualize time according to local circumstances and needs.

Six-day work week

Just this week, I had another encounter with another aspect of rubber time. I was visiting Gadja Mada University in Yogyakarta in the afternoon and then realized there weren't too many people. It was only 3 p.m., yet the halls were empty and many rooms were locked. I thought they might be on summer break but then in the Philippines, university campuses remain full of students and faculty during the summers. So I asked Dr. Muhajir Darwin, one of the university professors, why the campus was so quiet.

Turns out Indonesia has two different work weeks. One is the five-day work week we're used to, and then there's a six-day work week, which his university keeps and which goes from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. He said they were planning to move into a five-day work week but that his preference was for the six-day version because people are more productive this way. After 2 p.m., he theorized, people are drained.

I could empathize with Muhajir, feeling the effects of the sweltering heat and this wasn't even summer in Indonesia. But here we have a good example of how people will restructure time according to local circumstances. In a tropical country, the heat can be wilting and trying to work past 2 p.m. is probably futile...especially when there is no air-conditioning.

The afternoon heat is the reason why in Spain and many Latin American countries, shops will close for most of the afternoon, and then open up again well into the evening and sometimes as late as 8 or 9 p.m. No, they don't call it rubber time. It's, you guessed it, *siesta* time.

The idea that we should have a set schedule, "Open 8 to 5" is very Western, and doesn't always follow the rhythms of daily life in a rural area or a small city. When you think about it, even in Metro Manila, we should seriously consider a definite noon break when people can take lunch leisurely and take a quick power nap. I know some offices allow this and I suspect they reap benefits when it comes to productivity.

Midnight stalls

Another interesting example of *jam karet* comes with the way sidewalk food stalls operate. The night I arrived in Yogya, I was raring for *tempeh*, a soya-based food which is found only in Indonesia. It was around 10 when we arrived and I was able to find a stall that was open and selling *tempeh*. I was ecstatic, assured that I would have a *tempeh* source for the rest of my stay.

But the next night when I went to the stall, again around 10, it was closed. Then I found out that these stalls would open and close at different times of the day, a bit like some of our fine-dining restaurants. But the times for opening and closing were not fixed. Many of these stalls would close some time in the evening—between 8 and 10, depending on customers—and then open again, brace yourselves, some time after midnight to serve insomniacs and people who work nights. Well, sort of work.

The *lesehan* isn't really a stall, just a few mats where people can sit and eat, the clientele mainly *becak* (tricycle) drivers dropping in to chat. The *warung gaul* is a bit more elaborate, with a tarpaulin cover, but it's also informal and simple, serving tea, coffee, *kue* (native cakes) and a variety of *gorengan* (fried foods).

In a way then, these sidewalk vendors predated our modern malls with the idea of "midnight madness" sales, finding a business niche in what we used to think was dead time. That's *jam karet*, too, a flexibility about business hours.

As I said earlier, *jam karet* isn't just a matter of tardiness, it's stretching or contracting time appropriately. Our Garuda flight from Singapore to Yogyakarta was delayed by about 15 minutes, but from Yogyakarta to Singapore, it left 10 minutes ahead of schedule. And why not? All the passengers were in.

That reminded me of our jeepneys in the countryside: if you ask drivers when they will leave, they'll say "*alas puno*" (when-it's-full time). Makes sense, in its own way.

We in the big cities are chained, captives of time, which has in turn been broken down to nanoseconds and split seconds. We fidget when our computers take a bit longer to boot up (because we've overloaded it with all kinds of programs), when the Internet seems slow (because we've been hooked on high-speed connections), when the microwave minute seems like an hour.

Making time

The Indonesians perfected the technology for instant noodles, which has been disastrous for us—Indonesians and Filipinos—nutritionally as well as socially. Cooking and eating are now rushed processes, rather than one where we can enjoy good company and good food. Perhaps we should offset the instant noodles with *jam karet* in its more positive aspects, remembering that sometimes, when we turn to rigid schedules to "save" time, we may end up wearing ourselves out more quickly.

Just this morning my father asked if I could accompany him to the barber. I thought, "Oh no, it's Thursday morning and I have to finish my INQUIRER article." But I obliged, given that I'd been away in Indonesia for several days. Turning to *jam karet* turned out to be useful; the haircut allowed me to think my article through. So what you're reading now isn't just about *jam karet*, but was produced out of it.

Eventually, I'd like to develop an expanded philosophy of *jam karet*, one that accommodates the needs of the 21st century, being punctual and disciplined for certain tasks (such as teaching and attending classes) and being flexible at other times, staying longer than originally planned when visiting a friend who is in obvious need, or reading a few more lines to a child before she goes to sleep, or choosing to cook something more elaborate than instant noodles. It's all a matter of making time, and enjoying it, alone or with friends.

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DOTC chief needs to smell the smoke

ON APRIL 25, I read in the INQUIRER that the Land Transportation Office had passed an ISO certification, and that it was being hailed as a "corruption-free agency." Then, on April 27, I read that 95 percent of Metro Manila residents feel that air pollution is a serious concern in their lives.

Every day, I see tricycles, jeepneys, buses, trucks and cars belching dark smoke, yet their license plates are current. Somehow, they passed the emission test. How is this possible?

I have twice asked people at a testing center in Balic-Balic (a district of Manila) this question, and they say that anyone can have the license plate of his or her motor vehicle renewed at the LTO main station in East Avenue without a test. How is this possible?

Either the Clean Air Act has no air pollution standards, or the LTO is corrupt. I wish that Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza would investigate this, especially because we are getting sick and tired of air pollution. He needs to wake up and inhale the smoke!

—JONATHAN FOE,
260F, Arias St.,
San Miguel, Manila

Yorac hailed

AS A "completely aghast small coconut farmer," to paraphrase Quezon Rep. Lorenzo Tañada III, I congratulate former chair of the Presidential Commission on Good Government Haydee Yorac for expressing her concern over the "conduct of officers of the CIIF [Coconut Industry Investment Fund], particularly its top officials' use of company funds such as purchase of luxury vehicles, travel privileges including their wives, excessive per diems and memberships in golf clubs." (PDI, 5/05/05)

Likewise, kudos to Yorac for noting that "the practices of top CIIF officials tended to show that they have not exactly [lived up] to expectations to act like good stewards of the coconut levy funds."

In view of the foregoing reasons, it behooves Jose Perez, chair of the United Coconut Planters Bank which is the administrator of the CIIF oil mills, to look into the issues raised by Yorac on behalf of the already impoverished small coconut farmers, many of whom have died or become older through the years.

—CRISOSTOMO B. VILAR,
vice mayor, Pagsanjan, Laguna,
vice chair, Cocofed,
Pagsanjan Chapter

On abolishing the MMDA

I'VE BEEN living abroad for 15 years now. When I came back for a short vacation, I was surprised to see the improvements that Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) chair Bayani Fernando had done, although at the time of that visit I was not very convinced.

But in a subsequent vacation, I saw more improvements. Take for instance the clean highway signs. In addition, traffic flow has improved with the coding and diverting schemes. Abroad, you will be amazed by the orderliness of traffic and the effectiveness of traffic signs as a motorist's guide, something which I can see Fernando is trying to implement in our country.

Managing the whole Metro Manila road system is not an easy task, but to abolish the MMDA and return its functions to the city governments would be disastrous. (Local governments have different areas of responsibility.) It would be like the construction of a rail track, which was started simultaneously from its two ends moving toward the middle, except that it does not meet up in the middle because of lack of coordination.

I wish my country could become like the city where I have lived for 15 years.—**Rey Rodriguez, Av Um De Maio, Macau**

* * *

No one could be more arrogant than the journalist-turned-lawmaker, Makati Rep. Teodoro Locsin Jr., whose bias against Fernando is so repulsive. Out of *delicadeza*, Locsin's bill abolishing the MMDA should not have come from him because the whole world knows that Locsin is an ally of Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay who, knowing that Fernando is becoming popular and the best MMDA chair ever, bears a personal grudge against Fernando.

As far as I know—you ask people around—if there is one branch of the government that needs to be abolished, that is Congress! The

VOICES ON INQ7.NET

MMDA may be overzealously doing its job, but it is painstakingly doing everything to put things in order. Sure, the MMDA is not a perfect agency, but it deserves more recognition than Congress where some "people" eat, debate and waste taxpayers' money!—**Simon "Monsi" Serrano, Metaopsis Consultancy, Unit B818 Gueventville-II, Libertad Street, Mandaluyong City**

* * *

It was saddening to read that a certain congressman wanted to abolish the MMDA, for what are probably personal reasons.

Fernando is trying to bring order to Metro Manila's worsening traffic. But we, Filipinos, still have the "*talangka* (crab) mentality"—that is, the penchant for pulling down someone who is doing good for our people and for our country.—**Ben Mempin, PO Box 6330 Dubai, UAE**

* * *

I'm proud to be a Filipino, but the problem with some of our countrymen is their lack of discipline, which the MMDA is trying to instill in drivers, vendors etc. Tell me who among the previous MMDA chairmen have done as much, especially in easing traffic on Edsa. Then here comes this bill seeking to abolish the MMDA. I'll be the first to condemn the MMDA if its people are corrupt just like some other government agencies, but no, they are simply teaching Filipinos the virtue of discipline.—**Jun Miralles, Novaliches, Quezon City**

* * *

The proposal of Locsin to abolish the MMDA is uncalled for and totally disregards certain principles in urban planning. Although local governments are empowered to manage traffic, solid waste and other concerns, there remains a need for a coordinating body that will oversee and implement development-related activities in Metro Manila.

Without doubt the current MMDA has made remarkable achievements as far as traffic management is concerned. Fernando is a champion who has elevated the MMDA into a professional and efficient organization, and his creative initiatives should not be curbed. Locsin may want to consider proposing bills that will not hinder the development of Metro Manila as a livable city.—**Kevin Serrona, Sendai Japan**

* * *

Are they stupid? The MMDA certainly has done more good than harm for the metropolis. If the congressmen want to abolish it, then they better have a good transition plan such that the transfer of MMDA functions to local governments will not create chaos and confusion and get us all back to square one.—**Karyn Gonzales, Cavite, Philippines**

* * *

The MMDA is doing a good job. The Metro Manila mayors cannot say otherwise because they have always been remiss in their duties. We need a pro-active leader like Fernando, and the mayors pale by comparison, sorry to say. Mayors consider their voters sacred and will not do anything that will raise the ire of their constituents. The MMDA is a non-political body which addresses problems with the proper solutions, whether they are politically popular or not. If we expect this country to rise out of the political and economic quagmire it is now in, Fernando is the type of bureaucrat we need in government.—**Brice Chan, Plainview, Mandaluyong**

AFP way off the mark

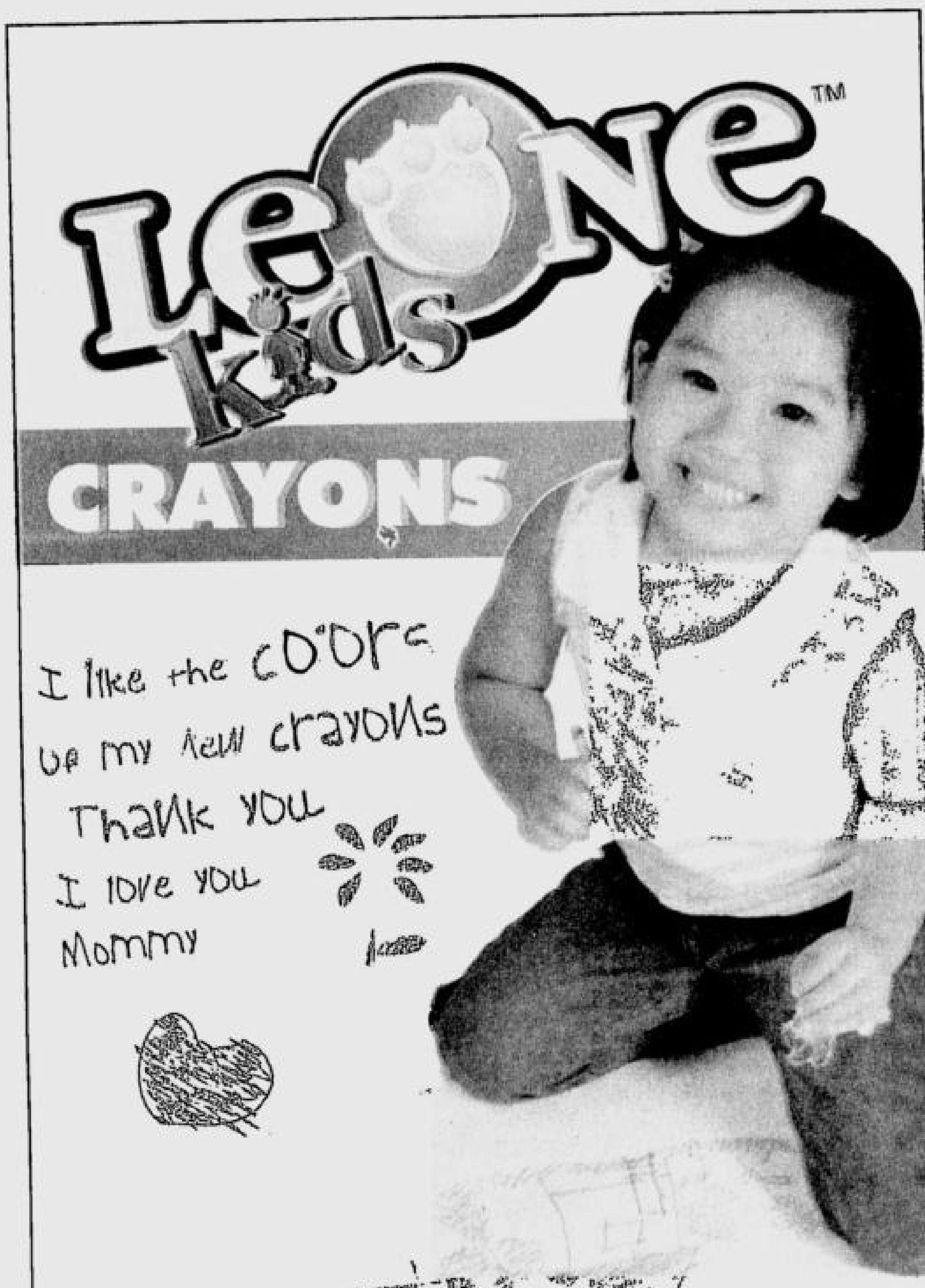
WE take exception to the description made by the authors of the AFP book, "Trinity of War" (PDI, 5/12/05) describing Bulatlat, a weekly online newsmagazine, as "left-leaning" and "CPP-influenced."

The 323-page book contains two short and separate paragraphs citing an alleged report by Bulatlat in which it quoted the "CPP-NPA-NDF" as encouraging the people to oppose the P18-billion Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway Project (SCTEP). Bulatlat has extensively covered the Hacienda Luisita land controversy, but nothing in its reports did it include this particular allegation in the AFP book. A special report on the SCTEP published by Bulatlat in its Feb. 6-12, 2005 issue was based on documents gathered by the reporter and on interviews with people and local officials from Tarlac as well as with the Hacienda Luisita management and the Department of Land Reform. We wonder where the "Trinity of War" authors got their facts.

Let me just inform the authors that the tenancy and union problem in Hacienda Luisita has been brewing for nearly a century and, regardless of any alleged role by the CPP-NPA-NDF, the struggle for land and wages by the farm workers will endure unless the issue is settled equitably and justly.

Bulatlat has been running investigative reports and critical exposés' on continuing human rights violations, land problems and other issues, but to insinuate that this online publication is "CPP-influenced" is way off the mark. I suggest the book writers should do more research.

—BOBBY TUAZON,
executive editor,
Bulatlat,
bulatlat@gmail.com



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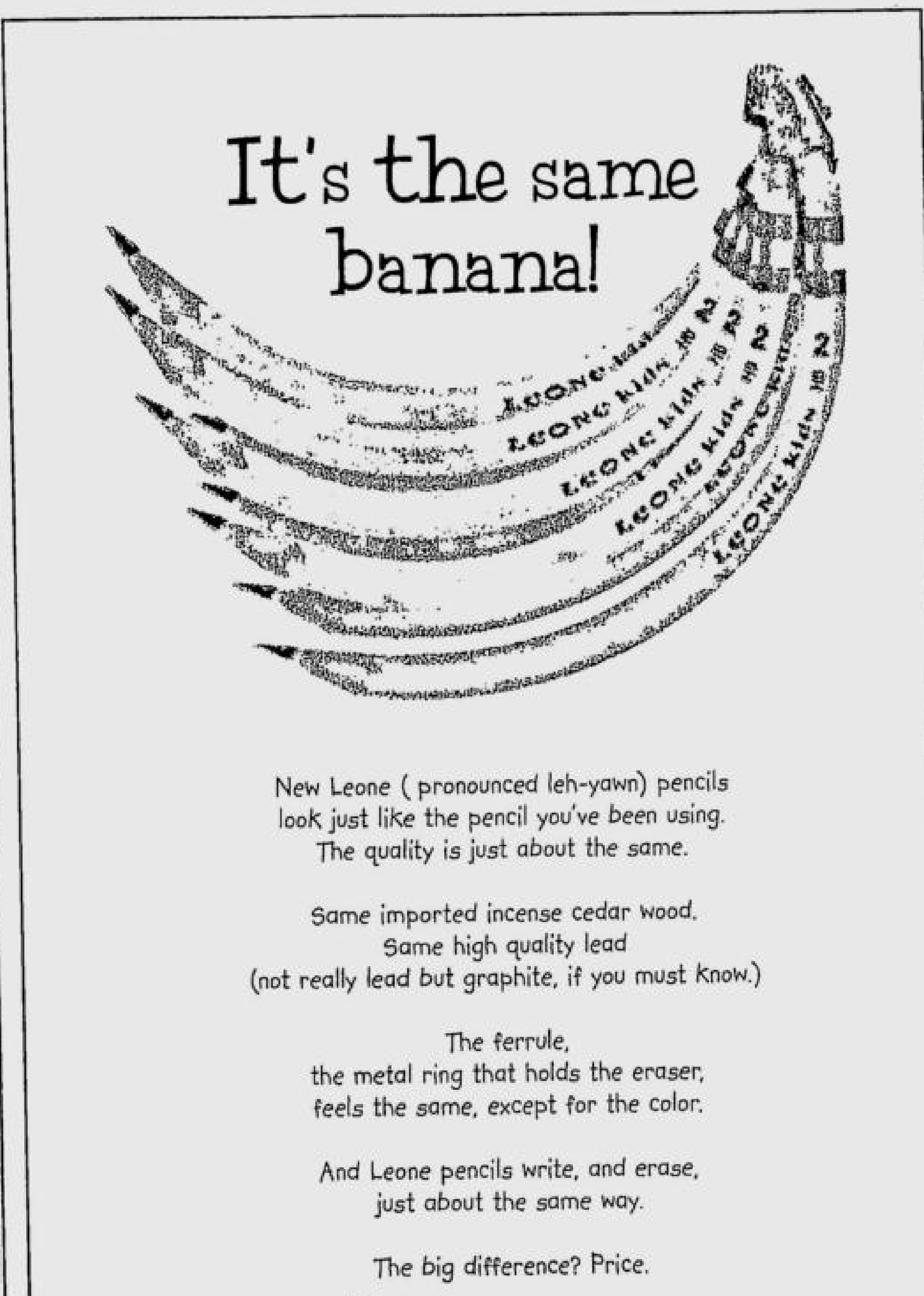

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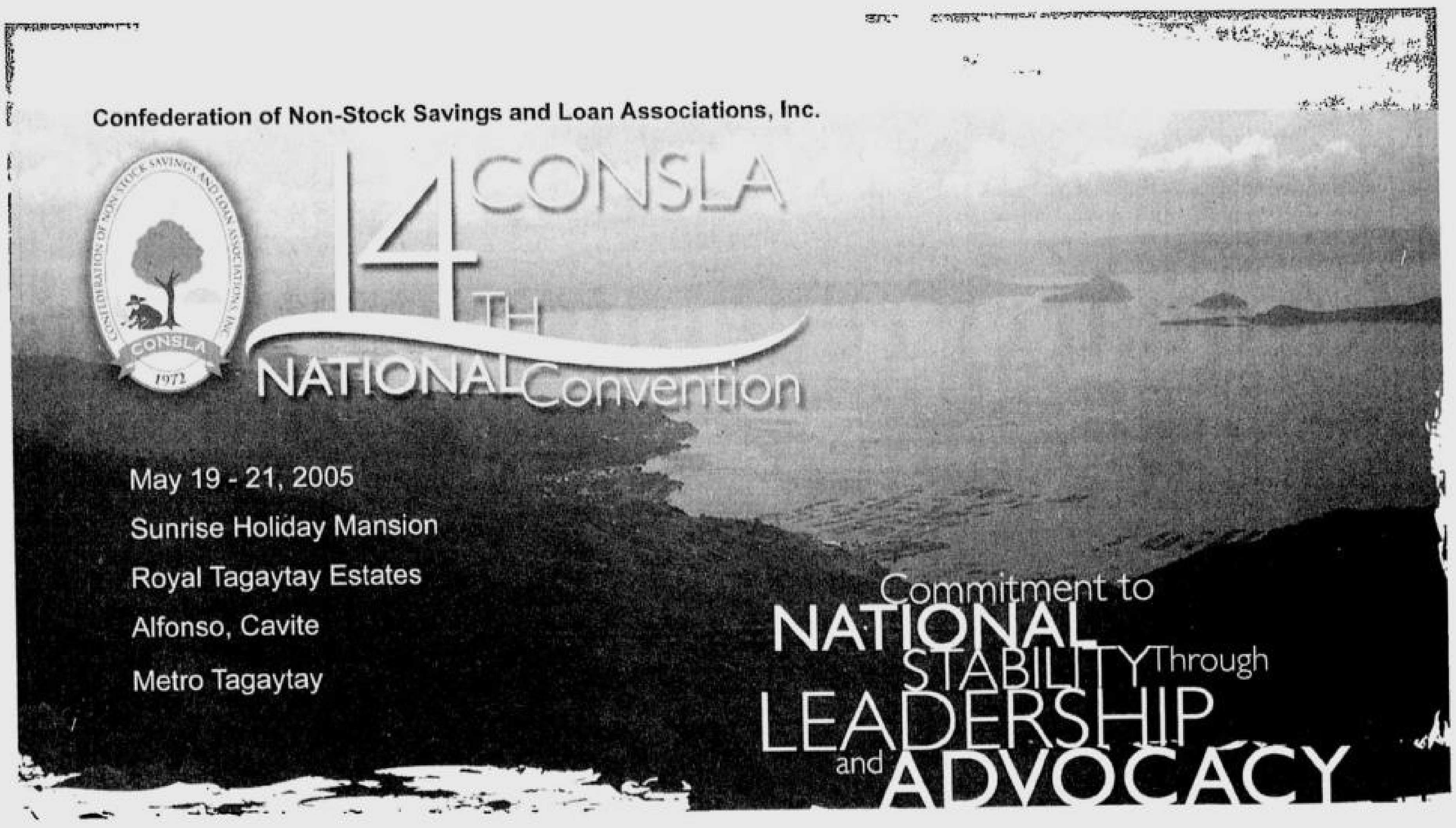


Confederation of Non-Stock Savings and Loan Associations, Inc.

14TH CONSLA NATIONAL Convention

May 19 - 21, 2005
Sunrise Holiday Mansion
Royal Tagaytay Estates
Alfonso, Cavite
Metro Tagaytay

Commitment to NATIONAL STABILITY Through LEADERSHIP and ADVOCACY

MALACAÑAN PALACE
Office of the President

I greet the officers and member organizations of the Confederation of Non-Stock Savings and Loan Associations, Inc. (CONSLA) on your 14th National Convention.

Your theme for this year's convention, *Commitment to National Stability Through Leadership and Advocacy*, speaks well of your vision. By securing the interests of your members, you have effectively encouraged a growing segment of our society to invest in grassroots institutions, which in turn hasten local development and people empowerment.

In this year of urgent change and fervent hopes, CONSLA's sustained commitment to its goals and continuous improvement of its services are crucial. I hope you will focus on helping the government create ten million jobs by strengthening small scale industries that will serve as the backbone of a dynamic local economy.

The road to the realization of our common aspirations may be long and challenging, but we have time and again proven that there is nothing impossible with unity and hard work. Let us, therefore, draw inspiration from our collective desire for progress in order to beat the odds and bring about prosperity among our people.

Mabuhay!

HON. GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO
PRESIDENT

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
Office of the Vice President

My warmest greetings to the Confederation of Non-stock Savings and Loan Associations, Inc. (CONSLA) as it holds its 14th National Convention on May 19-21, 2005.

I laud your renewed commitment to actively contribute to national progress as reflected in your theme, *Commitment to National Stability through Leadership and Advocacy*.

Non-stock savings and loan associations operate on the principle of self-help, in which members pool resources and borrow from the pool to finance small-scale businesses and emergency needs at low interest rates. I, therefore, commend you for playing a great part in transforming and empowering the Philippine society.

I join CONSLA, the umbrella organization of non-stock savings and loan associations, in leading the country in our march towards an enduring economic prosperity. Let us consolidate our efforts and work unselfishly to achieve and maintain a strong nation!

Mabuhay kayong lahat!

HON. NOLI "KABAYAN" L. DE CASTRO
VICE PRESIDENT

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
Office of the Senate President

My warmest greetings to the officers and members of the Confederation of Non-stock Savings and Loan Associations, Inc. (CONSLA) on the occasion of its 14th National Convention on May 19-21, 2005 at the Royal Tagaytay Estates, Metro Tagaytay.

I am very glad to be a part of this gathering where discussions will be centered on the crucial role you will play in the economic development of the country which your theme *Commitment to National Stability through Leadership and Advocacy* aptly puts it. Your contribution will greatly help our country especially at this crucial time. We need to continue to get our acts together to realize the dream for a better republic.

Let me enjoin the leaders of the CONSLA to inspire all members and unite to work for a common goal not just for the benefit of the group but for the whole country as well.

Mabuhay kayong lahat!

HON. FRANKLIN M. DRILON
SENATE PRESIDENT

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
House of Representatives

Warmest greetings to the Confederation of Non-Stock Savings and Loan Associations, Inc. (CONSLA) on the occasion of your 14th National Convention on May 19-21, 2005.

Your theme to provide assistance and essential services to your members speak of your commitment to serve. I encourage CONSLA to continue being partners with the national government in our common quest for lasting peace and stability by helping keep our people peaceful and prosperous through your programs and activities.

Let us work together to achieve sustainable economic growth by making credits and capital widely available to small entrepreneurs, farmers, and aspiring homeowners nationwide. I wish CONSLA success in this Convention that seeks to push your organization's fullest potential.

Mabuhay!

HON. JOSE DEVENECIA
SPEAKER, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS
Office of the Governor

Greetings to all the officers and members of the Confederation of Non-Stock Savings and Loan Associations, Inc. (CONSLA) on the occasion of their 14th National Convention!

We, at the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, appreciate the solid commitment and leadership of CONSLA in promoting stability and growth in the financial sector. This makes you our valuable partner in putting forward initiatives to enhance the operational efficiency of financial institutions for a more competitive and resilient financial system.

The theme, Commitment to National Stability through Leadership and Advocacy, signifies CONSLA's recognition of its role in nation building. Financial institutions can be the principal catalysts in securing sustainable economic growth, a prerequisite for achieving progress and stability as a nation.

As the lead agency in the national effort to promote a globally competitive economy and financial system, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas is taking action across a broad front through the implementation of reform initiatives anchored on maintaining price stability and upholding financial stability. We have been relentless in pursuing reforms to strengthen financial institutions. We have set our sights on addressing key areas: hastening the cleanup of non-performing assets, expanding the capital base, improving the quality of corporate governance and risk management, and strengthening prudential regulations in line with international standards for improved transparency and greater consumer protection.

We are counting on your continuing collaboration and support in sustaining these initiatives.

Our joint effort should go a long way in translating into action our shared vision of a strong financial system conducive to a balanced and sustainable growth of the economy.

More power to CONSLA!

AMANDO M. TETANGCO, JR.
GOVERNOR (OIC)

CONFEDERATION OF NON-STOCK SAVINGS AND LOAN ASSOCIATIONS, INC.

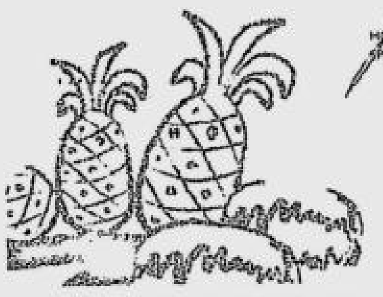
Through the years of CONSLA's existence in the industry, we have proven that, indeed, we are working hand in hand with the development of the economy, as expressed in our 14th National Convention Theme, *Commitment to National Stability thru Leadership and Advocacy*.

Thus, in the past year, we have once again taken brave steps with the goal of bringing our Confederation into its pinnacle, with the support of the men and women behind the savings and loan associations who have continuously shared their ideas, efforts and energies. More than ever, I am confident to say that we are in the course of achieving our goals and objectives.

May all of us, employees, members and stakeholders alike, sustain the good support we have established that has propped us up in facing the challenges that we have encountered and still shall encounter.

Let us strive to make the most out of this occasion and transform it as an opportunity for us to remain strong and sturdy, a Confederation propelled with a vision to aid the economy and serve the country.

P/DIR. RUFINO G. IBAY, JR. (RET)
PRESIDENT



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An Appeal To Our Honorable Senators and Representatives

WE, the 85 member-organizations comprising the NON-STOCK AND LOAN ASSOCIATION (NSSLA) Industry, beseech the compassion of our senators and representatives to consider the retention of tax incentives granted by RA No. 8367, enacted on October 21, 1997, to NSSLAs based on the following grounds:

- Our industry has an estimated 1,700,000 individual members composed of teachers, vendors, soldiers, policemen, firefighters, government and private employees and retirees with approximately 3,300,000 dependents and beneficiaries. Our members belong to the so-called "high-credit risk" sector hence cannot easily obtain loan and financial assistance from banks and similar institutions as they do not have collateral to back up their borrowings. Similarly, membership to the NSSLAs is limited only to a well-defined group and NSSLAs are not allowed to transact business with the general public.
- We operate on the principle of *paluwagan* and *sariling-sikap* (self-help) wherein members pool their hard-earned money and borrow from this source to finance their small-scale businesses and emergency needs at very low interest rates and a reasonable return on their savings.
- The low interest rate enjoyed by our members is made possible through the tax incentives granted by Republic Act No. 8367. The imposition of taxes on the NSSLA's would mean higher cost of borrowing for our members and lower return on their savings.
- The withdrawal of tax incentives to NSSLAs would lead to the contraction of their resources and the eventual demise of the industry. This would leave the estimated 5,000,000 members and dependents as additional financial burden to the government.
- The retention of tax incentives will further boost the growth and survival of the NSSLA industry as we inculcate the culture of savings among our members.

WE, therefore, appeal to you our lawmakers, to preserve the tax incentives granted by law to the NSSLA industry and its members.

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WE SUPPORT A STRONG REPUBLIC. PLEASE RETAIN THE TAX INCENTIVES FOR NSSLAs!

A18 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER FRIDAY, MAY 20, 2005

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Use of fake quarry receipts confirmed

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—The National Printing Office, the agency that prints official forms for government transactions, on Wednesday confirmed the use of fake receipts in the collection of sand taxes in Porac, Pampanga.

The NPO, after examining at least 30 receipts used in Porac, found at least four to be "not authentic."

Called Accountable Form No. 51, the documents were issued by the Porac municipal government on Oct. 23, 2003, for the collection of P40 service charge and P30 ecological tax.

"They do not bear the NPO logo watermarked security inherent in our paper stock used in the printing of the form," said Ronald Velasco, NPO officer in charge, in a letter to Vice Gov. Joseller Guiao, who requested the verification.

Porac Mayor Exequiel Gamboa and municipal treasurer Manuel Roxas could not be reached for comment. Roxas served as provincial assessor in 1998.

Velasco said the rest of the receipts, issued by the provincial government for its collection of the P300 tax and obtained from a checkpoint in Porac, were printed by the NPO because these bore the agency's watermark.

However, Velasco noted that the receipts were "unusually punched on the serial numbers itself while others were torn/cut specifically at the upper portion or heading containing the serial numbers."

These practices, he said, made it "difficult to trace and verify the authenticity of the serial numbers." The collecting officer in this case was provincial treasurer Vergel Yabut.

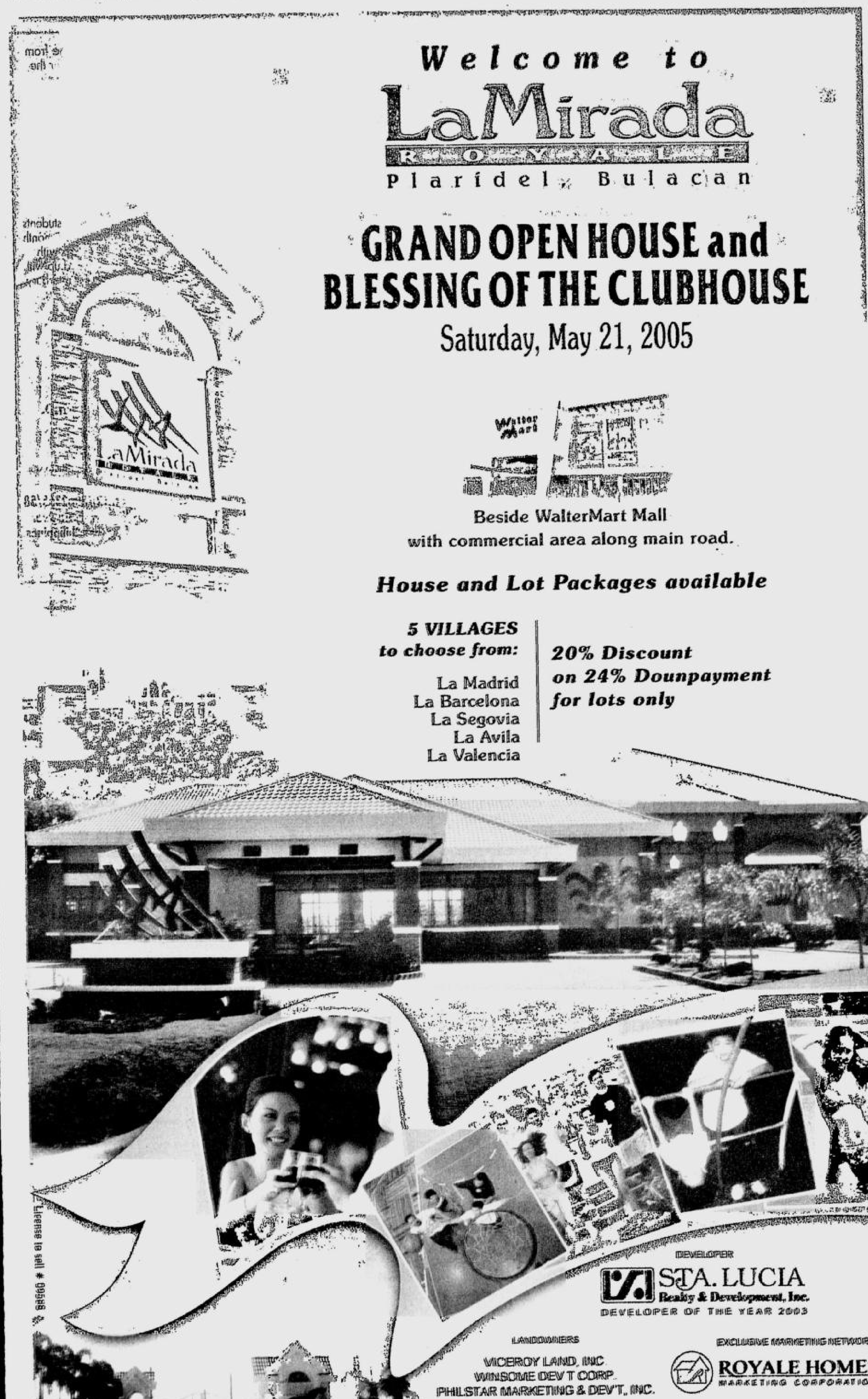
Velasco said the other forms, called "personalized official receipts" that are allowed printing outside of the NPO, were still being verified by an accredited printer of the provincial capitol.

Guiao submitted the NPO findings during the first hearing of the House committee on good government on Wednesday. The congressional body is looking into alleged irregularities in the collection of taxes imposed on quarrying and hauling of Mt. Pinatubo sand.

More suspected fake receipts would be submitted to the NPO for analysis.

Guiao told the committee that the supposed proliferation of fake receipts was one of the reasons revenues dropped to P45.1 million in the last three years.

In the hearing, provincial administrator Fidel Arcenas said he, too, would "like to get to the bottom of this," referring to the Capitol's alleged use of fake receipts.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DPWH promises to help drive vs marijuana

BAGUIO CITY—President Macapagal-Arroyo's proposed projects designed to eliminate marijuana plantations in two Cordillera towns will soon get off the ground after the Department of Public Works and Highways committed itself to look for funds to start construction.

The projects—farm-to-market roads in Kapangan, Benguet and cable cars in Tinglayan, Kalinga—are meant to provide farmers means of transport for their products to discourage them from cultivating marijuana.

Baguio Rep. Mauricio Domogan and Benguet Rep. Samuel Dangwa said DPWH officials assured them of funding to fulfill Malacañang's bid to ease poverty in the Cordillera.

Dangwa and Domogan, in separate interviews, said the DPWH must work overtime to source the funds as the projects showed the President's concern for the welfare of farmers in the towns affected.

Mariano Alquiza, DPWH regional director, said he had already informed Ms Arroyo and Public Works Secretary Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. of the needed budget after legal questions made it impossible to realign a P44-million fund intended for a flyover project in front of Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center here.

Ms Arroyo ordered the fund realignment during a visit here in March. The order prompted the DPWH to suspend the flyover project.

Alquiza told Ms Arroyo in a March 23 letter that the realignment would not be possible since the period for the realignment of funds had already lapsed.

He said the government would be courting lawsuits if it would not honor the contract awarded for the flyover project.

"The contractor himself refused to realign the P44 million," he said.

"In case the flyover project will not push through, the fund allotted for its completion will not be automatically realigned since it will go to the general appropriation fund," Alquiza said.

Domogan said Ms Arroyo might not have been informed that the flyover was a priority project when she ordered the fund realignment.

Alquiza said the DPWH must address the nature of the terrain in Kapangan and Tinglayan where the projects would arise. He noted that P44 million would not be enough to cover the projects.

Roads should be built in five barangays in Kapangan and nine barangays in Tinglayan, he said.
Delmar Cariño, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Execs to demolish Pangasinan fish pens

DAGUPAN CITY—The polluted and congested waterways here can finally breathe after the city government ordered the demolition of illegal fishery structures in the Pugaro and Salapinga Rivers on Wednesday.

Mayor Benjamin Lim said the city government was scheduled to demolish 300 illegal fish pens and traps in the rivers crisscrossing the city.

"While we wanted to increase *bangus* (milkfish) production in the city, we have to dismantle the illegal structures, such as the oversized pens and those located in the navigational lanes," Lim said.

The city's fishery ordinance limits the size of a fish pen to only 300 square meters, but some of the pens measure 2,000 sqm or more.

Also, some pens and traps hamper navigation in the rivers.

Emma Molina, city agriculture officer, said at least 80 illegal structures in other rivers had been demolished since November last year.

She said the demolition team would clear the rivers' 50-m buffer zone and position structures that had license under the aquaculture lease agreement (ALA). The agriculture office has approved 770 ALAs.

Lim, who joined the team on Wednesday, said they allowed owners to harvest their stocks before they demolished the pens.

"We are serious in clearing the rivers of the illegal structures, but we are also compassionate," he said.

He said they asked the owners to build smaller pens and follow the provision of the city fishery ordinance. *Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Suit planned vs Palawan gov over Malampaya shares

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—A civil society group, a former interior secretary and several lawyers from the University of the Philippines are set to sue the national government and Palawan Gov. Joel Reyes for allegedly entering into an illegal agreement on the release of the province's share from the Malampaya project.

According to Romel Regalado Bagares, a partner at the Roque and Butuyan Law Offices, the interim agreement signed by former secretaries Vincent Perez (energy) and Juanita Amatong (finance) and acting Budget Secretary Mario Relampagos, on behalf of the national government, and Reyes, on behalf of Palawan, was a violation of the Local Government Code and the Constitution.

Bagares represented lawyer Harry Roque, his law firm's senior partner and professor of international law at UP.

He said Reyes had no authority to sign on behalf of other local government units, such as the municipality and the barangay where the Camago-Malampaya project is supposedly located.

The agreement, signed Feb. 8, paved the way for the release of P1.2 billion, representing half of the 40-percent share in the project, minus the P600 million in financial assistance released to Palawan before the elections last year.

President Macapagal-Arroyo was not a signatory but on Feb. 7, she bestowed full presidential power to the three secretaries to negotiate with Palawan on supposed shares in the project.

The agreement contained provisions on the use of the amount representing the shares from 2002 until 2004. The shares for the succeeding years have yet to be determined.

The Malampaya started operating in 2002.

.Under the Local Government Code, a local government unit is entitled to receive 40 percent of the share from the national wealth. But Reyes said the amount given was only half of the 40-percent share because of a pending court litigation.

He said the amount was taken from the LGU share, which has been put in a trust fund.

The agreement included projects to be given priority, such as infrastructure, environment, electrification and security.

Bagares said Reyes could not sign the agreement alone because the other LGUs were entities separate from the provincial government.

"In fact, the cities, municipalities and barangay have bigger shares than the provincial government in the allocation of the shares," he said.

The barangay and the municipality get 35 and 45 percent, respectively, while the province gets 20 percent, according to Section 292 of the LGC, Bagares said.

He said the agreement violated Section 290 of the code, which provides a 40-percent share to the LGUs from "gross collection."

"The interim agreement only talks of the 'net proceeds' supposedly from the utilization of the Malampaya oil and gas resources while the law provides that the share of the LGU is based on 'gross collection,'" Bagares added.

He cited another violation of the code involving Section 286, which states that "the share of the LGU shall be released without any further action, directly and on a quarterly basis, without lien or holdback that may be imposed by the national government."

Another provision that grants autonomy to LGUs was violated because shares on national wealth should be spent according to the prerogative of the LGUs concerned, Bagares said.

The national government has no business meddling with it, he said.

Jofelle P. Tesorio, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

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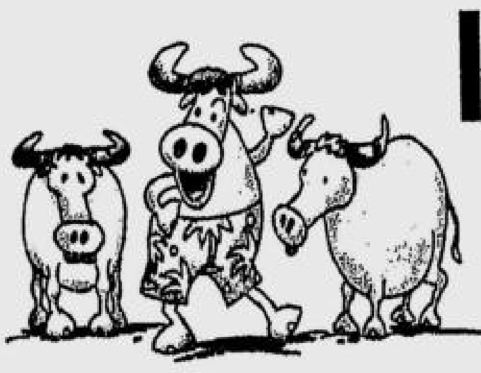

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Students among NPA rebs hunted by Army

DAVAO CITY—At least 20 college students were in the band of communist rebels being hunted down by the military in Bukidnon, a military spokesperson said yesterday.

Maj. Jose Cuerpo II, chief of the military's 5th Civil Relations Group for Southeastern Mindanao, said the students had been recruited into the communist New People's Army and had actually fought side by side with the rebels during a clash in Kitaotao town on Saturday.

Cuerpo said soldiers from the 26th Infantry Battalion were in Barangay Sinuda when they encountered more than 80 heavily armed rebels.

The clash with the rebels, belonging to the NPA's Front Committee 52 and led by Leonardo Pitao, alias Kumander Parago, lasted for about two hours.

A woman, identified as Jane Quintos, was killed along with two other rebels.

Cuerpo said Quintos, 22, was identified through an Ateneo de Davao University (AdDU) school ID found in her possession.

"The two other slain rebels have yet to be identified," he said.

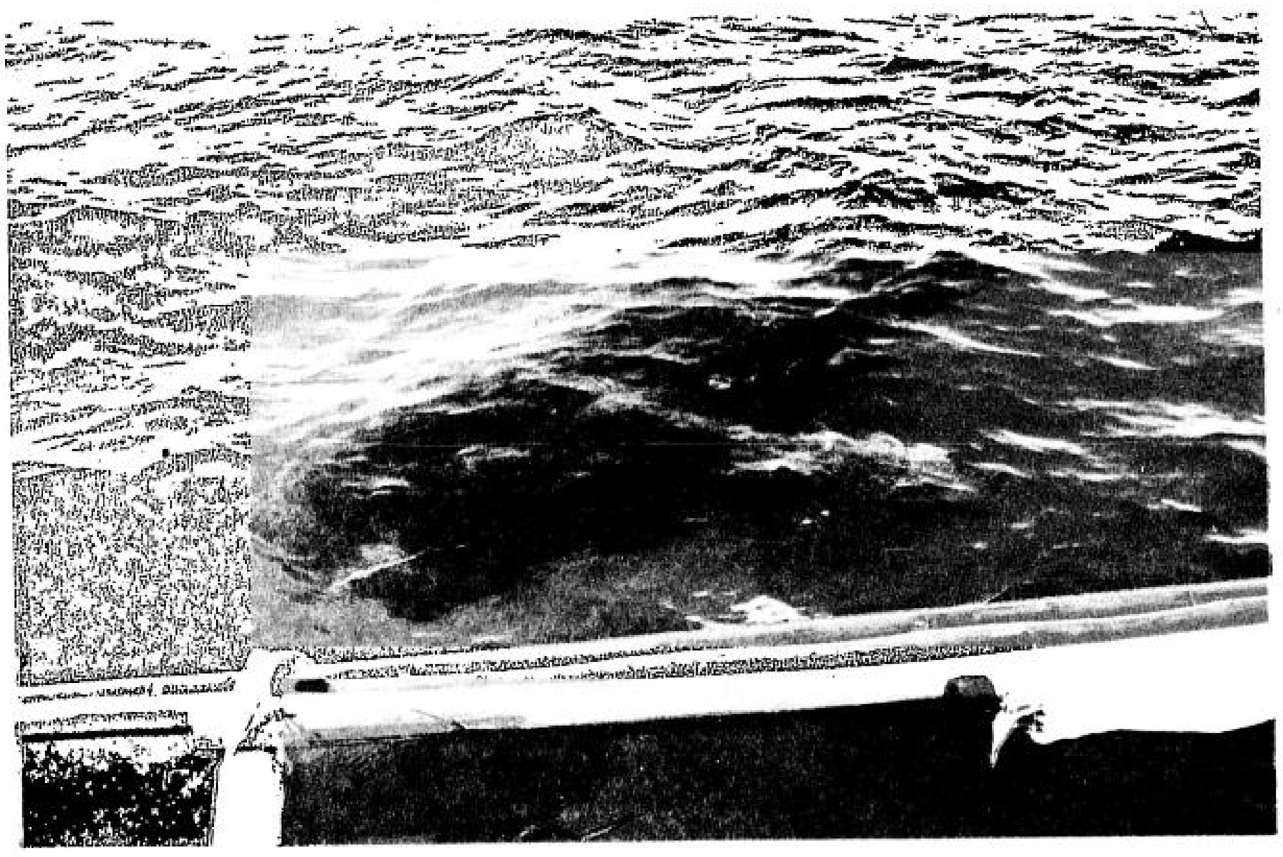
Rikki Enriquez, AdDU's director of student affairs, said Quintos had never studied in the school.

"If that is the name, there is no record of her. Even with the registrar's office," Enriquez said.

He said that because Quintos was 22 as the military reported, they searched records dating back to 1996 to see if she was indeed a student but they found nothing.

Enriquez said they suspected that the slain rebel had carried a fake school ID.

"We have to see the ID to validate it. Anybody can make an ID. We wish to see that ID," he said. *Anthony S. Allada and Joselle d.R. Badilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau*



APPEARANCE BULLIT MARQUEZ/AP

A giant whale shark surfaces in the waters of Sorsogon Bay in Donsol, Sorsogon as it feeds on planktons. Foreign and local tourists need not dive deeper to interact with the gentle and biggest fish in the world, locally known as "butanding."

South Cotabato gov orders arrest of sluice miners

KORONADAL CITY—South Cotabato Gov. Daisy Fuentes has ordered the arrest of natives involved in sluice (*banlas*) mining in the mountains of Barangay Kematu in T'boli town.

Fuentes, also chair of the province's peace and order council, issued the order to local officials and law enforcers of T'boli as the natives continue their sluice mining operations despite a ban imposed earlier this year.

Those engaged in sluice mining move the soil for easier extraction of gold particles by pouring large volumes of water until the soil washes down to box-type diggings called sluice boxes.

The boxes have screens that are used to separate the fine gold particles from the soil and pebbles.

The miners gather the accumulated gold particles, place them in a container and extract the gold with a pan using mercury.

Sluice miners earn P300 to P5,000 daily.

Fuentes said the province allowed small-scale mining, except sluice, because it destroys the mountain.

"We have already closed the site, confiscated and destroyed their structures. However, there are still hardheaded people even though we have conducted dialogues with them on how the government can help them following the stoppage of sluice mining in the area," Fuentes told the INQUIRER on Wednesday.

"I directed authorities in that town to arrest and file appropriate charges against the *banlas* miners," she added.

Another extractive operation called tunnel mining is going on in Barangay Kematu, Fuentes said.

The previous administration recognized tunnel mining through the provincial mining regulatory board.

"We are now regulating the tunnel mining through the help of Bureau of Mines in the region. We are just asking amendments in our ordinance to ensure that government will collect taxes," Fuentes said. *Jeoffrey Maitem, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Libel case filed over bombing story

By Joey A. Gabieta
PDI Visayas Bureau

TACLOBAN CITY—Four members of militant groups and a reporter are facing a multimillion-peso libel case filed by a military officer who claimed that he felt "maligned" by their "baseless and unfounded" accusations that his men were the ones who bombed a Bayan Muna office in Northern Samar on April 6.

Col. Manuelito Uzi, head of the 63rd Infantry Battalion based in Catubig, Northern Samar, filed the complaint with the provincial prosecutor's office in Laoang, Northern Samar.

Uzi demanded P18 million in damages from the five respondents who included Leomar Orsolino, Bayan Muna provincial secretary general; Rolex Tapalla, Bayan Muna member; and Oscar Turla Jr., Anakbayan member.

Also charged were Prof. Jose Ma. Cui, president of the University of the Eastern Philippines Employees Association and provincial president of the Confederation for Unity, Recognition and Advancement of Government Employees, and Dan Dalac, news correspondent of the Manila-based Pinoy Weekly and the local weekly Eastern Times.

Dalac is the anchor of a radio program, "Lingganay (Bell)," aired over radio station Hot FM.

Uzi told the INQUIRER in a phone interview that he filed the libel case because of the respondents' "repeated allegations that the military was behind the April 6 bomb-throwing incident of the Bayan Muna headquarters."

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BIR hits Juday with P6.7-M tax evasion case

From page A1

ally earned P14,796,234.70 in 2002 and that the actress did not declare at least 84 percent of her taxable income. Parayno said the BIR was able to confirm from ABS-CBN and the two film productions the amounts they had paid Santos.

False income tax returns

"It is clear that she failed to declare in her income tax return for taxable year 2002 the amount of at least P6.7 million. This constitutes prima facie evidence of a false or fraudulent return under Section 248 of the National Internal Revenue Code," Parayno said.

Santos was not available for comment. "As of now, she's asleep," her manager, Alfie Lorenzo, told the INQUIRER.

Parayno also said that Santos' P14.7-million income in 2002 did not include the talent fees she received from other sources.

Santos is one of the leading actresses of Star Cinema Productions Inc. with a string of movies to her credit. She has also done endorsements for a host of products, like 555 Sardines, Leonardo bags, Angel evaporated milk, Pacific Blue Shades and San Miguel beer.

Nothing personal

Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima said many of Santos' fans were likely to be disappointed over the government's legal action against their idol.

"We'd like to assure the public that there is nothing personal in the DOF-BIR's campaign against tax evasion. We are just doing our job. Power and fame do have their corresponding share of responsibilities. And stardom does not accord immunity from tax laws," Purisima said.

Malacañang also said the BIR was not running after entertainers who had sided with the late actor Fernando Poe Jr. in last year's presidential election.

Both Santos and Gomez campaigned for the late actor in the May 2004 elections.

"The action taken by the BIR was based on its scrutiny of documents," Bunye said. "You're not able to comply with the requirement, then you make yourself liable for prosecution."

Blame on financial advisers

Gomez and Velasquez have filed their counteraffidavits with the DOJ. Gomez said all his earnings had been subject to withholding taxes. Like Velasquez, Gomez blamed his financial advisers for his present troubles.

Gomez was accused of failing to declare four years' worth of income, while Velasquez was accused of failing to pay a year's worth of income taxes. The amounts involved were not disclosed but Parayno said the amounts were "substantial."

A separate industry-wide audit is under way with a view to flushing out more tax evaders in the entertainment sector, according to Parayno.

Purisima said the campaign was part of President Macapagal-Arroyo's efforts, along with new tax legislation, to raise revenues by P80 billion annually to avert a looming fiscal crisis.

Other cases

"We will not compromise. We will pursue these [cases] to the very end because we want to send a message that it is no longer business as usual," Purisima said.

The case against Santos was filed by the BIR under the ongoing Operation: RATE (Run After Tax Evaders). Others who have been charged this year were:

- Cristina Aboitiz-Juan and officers of Fitness by Design Inc. and Dr. Joel Cortez Mendez of the Mendez Medical Group on March 10.
- Basketball star Paul Asi Taulava and former AFP comptroller Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia and wife Clarita on March 17.
- Jose Luis Melo Santiago and fellow officers of PT&T, and Excellence Weaving Inc. on March 31.
- Fernando Francisco and fellow officers of Italcar, and Renato Herrera of Glo Herbal on April 7.
- Actor Richard Gomez, and Edgardo Tecson Yambao and wife Maria Isabel on April 14.
- Actress-singer Regine Velasquez on April 21.
- Vincent Lim and fellow officers of Columbia Sports, Philippines Inc. on April 28.
- Douglas Quijano and Harte Beest on May 5.
- Enrique Sobrepeña Jr. and fellow officers of CAP Pension and CAP College Assurance Plan, and Eliseo Co of Divisoria Dried Fish Center and General Merchandising on May 12. *With reports from Armand Nocum, Michelle V. Remo, Christine O. Avendaño, Bayani San Diego Jr. and AFP*

A study . . .

From page A1

with the nursing staff and eyeing people around suspiciously.

As a result of Esther's behavior, her doctor stopped her from saying a word.

Although she has yet to be formally charged for the offense, Esther's lawyer Reynald Suarez was already invoking insanity as a defense in case Esther would be included in the charge sheet.

"Her condition would make it hard for her to plan out the murder," Suarez said, adding that suspect Lumagui, who tagged Esther as the mastermind, would not likely heed her request even during her "lucid intervals."

During the hearing, Lumagui maintained that Esther was the mastermind.

After two hours at the hearing, Esther had removed her slides and raised her feet up to her seat.

Soon, she was struggling to remove her blouse with the hospital staff struggling to stop her.

Ilness' manifestations

When State Prosecutor Emmanuel Velasco asked that she be allowed to speak, her doctor Rene Yat said she's not capable of making correct answers. "This is not a good time," he said, adding that she was in the throes of her sickness just then.

Hearing this, Esther was heard saying; "That's bullshit. F--k you."

Yat said Esther's incoherence, intermittent screaming, nonsensical chatting, and sometimes her wanting to undress in front of people are manifestations of her illness.

Leticia sat quietly during the proceedings. When it was her turn to answer questions from Velasco, Leticia said that Esther had fought with Alice, hitting her with a picture frame "without provocation" two days before she was killed on April 24.

"Alice does not fight her, but she always fights with Alice over money," she said, confirming Lumagui's claim that Esther was sore at Alice for allegedly keeping her from spending the pension of her late American husband.

Leticia denied fighting with her sister the day she was killed, saying she shouted when she was being attacked by Lumagui's group.

What neighbors say

Velasco confronted her with testimony from their neighbors in Makati who said that after she removed the duct tape the suspects tied her with, she was seen allegedly "walking casually" to report the crime to the hospital, the same where her sister is confined.

Velasco also wondered why she did not shout loud enough for her neighbors to hear and help.

"What can she do?" she said, referring to one of her neighbors. To show her confused state of mind, Leticia said she was walking in her nightgown, something she would never do under normal circumstances.

Asked whether Esther would be capable of killing her sister, Leticia replied: "I don't know. I don't know what's on her mind."

But she said that during Esther's lucid intervals, she talked to her sister about the food she wanted to eat.

Following the preliminary investigation, Velasco ordered doctors of the National Bureau of Investigation to submit a report on the mental health of Esther and for her lawyers to submit their counter-affidavit tomorrow.

NBI Capital Region chief lawyer Edmundo Arugay said that Dr. Rommel Papa and Dr. Noel Reyes of the National Center for Mental Health were tasked to conduct the examination.

Velasco also asked that Lumagui be made to undergo a lie-detection test.

He also asked Esther's doctor to produce her medical records.

"We would like to know if she's really suffering from mental incapacity and whether we have to file charges against her," Velasco told reporters."

Villar still richest . . .

From page A1

House of Representatives.

As of Dec. 31, 2004, Ignacio, the brother of First Gentleman Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo, was the second richest lawmaker after Las Piñas Rep. Cynthia Villar.

Ignacio declared a net worth of P286.3 million (total assets of P314.1 million minus P27.8 million in liabilities). He lost about P6 million since he assumed office in July last year.

Villar was the richest lawmaker with a net worth of P620.7 million and no liabilities.

She has been listed as the wealthiest member of the House since her first term in 2001, while her husband, Sen. Manuel Villar Jr., holds that distinction in the Senate.

Mikey Arroyo is the 18th richest House member with P76.5 million in net worth and no liabilities.

Both Arroyos took their seats in July 2004.

Poorest

The poorest member of the House is Bayan Muna party-list Rep. Joel Virador who listed a net worth of only P34,500, P500 less than a congressman's monthly salary.

Ignacio Arroyo earlier told the INQUIRER that he did not include the controversial P300-million Jose Pidal account in Union Bank in his 2004 Statement of Assets, Liabilities and Net Worth because the money went to the campaign funds of local officials in 2001.

Sen. Panfilo Lacson had claimed the account really belonged to the First Gentleman, but Ignacio had stepped forward to claim it was his.

The sons of Senators Edgardo Angara and Juan Ponce Enrile also made it to the wealthiest lawmakers list. Aurora Rep. Juan Edgardo Angara declared a net worth of P112.4 million to place fifth, while Cagayan Rep. Juan "Jackie" Ponce Enrile Jr. came in seventh with P93.7 million.

In third place was Iloilo Rep. Judy Syjuco, P254.6 million; followed by Iloilo Rep. Ferjenel Biron, P227 million; Angara; Quezon Rep. Rafael Nantes, P110.6 million; Enrile; Davao del Norte Rep. Antonio Floirendo Jr., P90.8 million; Tarlac Rep. Gilbert Teodoro Jr., P90 million, and Quezon City Rep. Mary Ann Susano, P85.8 million.

Former Interior Secretary, now Antipolo Rep. Ronaldo Puno, was in 11th spot with P85.8 million. Former Executive Secretary in the Estrada administration, now San Juan Rep. Ronaldo Zamora, occupied the 14th slot with P79 million, while former National Security Adviser, now Parañaque City Rep. Roilo Golez, was 42nd with P42.5 million.

JDV, too

Speaker Jose de Venecia placed 34th with P51.5 million.

Other prominent personalities who made it to the top 50 millionaires list were Representatives Glenda Ecleo, P78.7 million, 15th; Teodoro Locsin Jr., P74.8 million, 21st; Mark Cojuangco, son of businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco, P72.7 million, 23rd; Roque Ablan, P60 million, 27th; Teofisto Guingona III, P56.6 million, 31st; Gerry Salapuddin, P48.9 million; Rolando Andaya, P45.1 million, 40th; Edcel Lagman, P44.9 million, 41st; Benjamin Abalos Jr., P39.2 million, 47th, and Abraham Kahlil Mitra, P38.9 million, 48th.

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Why the silence on jueteng in Cavite, Remulla asks Lacson

By Marlon Ramos
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

CALAMBA CITY—From one Cavite lawmaker to another: Name the government officials who are behind the continued "jueteng" operations in their home province.

Cavite Rep. Jesus Crispin Remulla yesterday aired this challenge to Sen. Panfilo Lacson, saying that while the latter had been waging a virtual war against the illegal numbers game in the Senate and in the media, "he is conspicuously silent on the rampant jueteng activities in Cavite."

"I just wonder why Cavite was not even mentioned in the list that says where jueteng persists. Almost all the people in Cavite know that jueteng is prevalent [there]," Remulla said in a phone interview, adding:

"Is it because he (Lacson) just forgot, or somebody from his staff might have excluded it for some reason? I think the good senator should review his list."

Asked if the exclusion had something to do with Lacson's ties with Gov. Ayong Maliksi, Remulla said: "It's very possible. Maliksi was with him almost every day during the presidential campaign."

Lacson, said to be Cavite's most favored son, hails from Imus town, of which Maliksi served as mayor for several years. He was also Cavite congressman for three years.

The INQUIRER tried to reach Maliksi for comment, but according to a text message from his media consultant Alda Lou Buslon-Cabrera, he is in the United States and will stay there until June 5.

Citing "credible sources," Remulla said the jueteng payola in Cavite now reached up to P2.5 million a month.

He claimed that a brother of a top Cavite official was overseeing the jueteng operations, and that a number of provincial officials had been receiving payoffs.

The influential Remulla family also supported Lacson in his failed run for the presidency last year.

The family severed ties with Maliksi after a spat between Remulla and the latter, a long-time political ally of his father, former Gov. Johnny Remulla.

'Worst scandal' to hit GMA, says Mikey of jueteng allegations

From page A1

But he said he had been specifically instructed not to talk about his father, who was to come out with his own denial.

Who's behind smear?

At a news conference held in Mike Arroyo's office at the LTA building in Makati, lawyer Jesus Santos said the First Gentleman was very saddened by the new allegations against him: *"Sinabi niya, bakit naman ganito kaya ang ginagawa sa akin nitong mga taong ito* (He said, why are these people doing this to me)?"

Santos said that in his opinion, a group or only one person likely known to the First Gentleman was behind yet another smear campaign against the latter.

Santos denied that his client was involved in any operation of the illegal numbers game, and insisted that the allegations were intended to destroy the latter's reputation.

Asked why the First Gentleman was not speaking for himself, Santos said it was not because he did not want to face reporters but because any explanation from him tended to be misconstrued.

Santos said the First Gentleman's message to the media was that he did not receive any jueteng money.

Overseas trip

The First Gentleman is pushing through today with an overseas trip with his siblings, according to his office last night.

Santos said that the First Gentleman's trip had been arranged long before the latest controversy erupted.

Arroyo's chief of staff, Juris Soliman, said Mr. Arroyo would be going on the trip with his brother, Rep. Ignacio "Iggy" Arroyo, and their sister, Marilyn.

Soliman did not want to give any more details of the Arroyo siblings' trip but sources said they were headed for Singapore. They were reportedly leaving today at 8:15 a.m. on Singapore Airlines flight SQ 071.

Thorough probe

The President herself wants an investigation of the allegations in the INQUIRER by two supposed "bagmen" and a jueteng operator, code-named B1, B2 and O1.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said at a news conference that Ms Arroyo had ordered the Department of Justice and the Office of the Ombudsman, or whichever had jurisdiction, "to look thoroughly into the allegations and file the necessary charges, if warranted."

Bunye said the justice department had asked the INQUIRER how officials could get hold of B1, B2 and O1: "To start whatever the DOJ has to do, it has written the newspaper asking for its cooperation to be able to interview these witnesses." *(See story on Page A6.)*

He reiterated that the Arroyo administration was bent on stopping jueteng operations.

Still sleepy

Perspiring profusely, Congressman Arroyo told reporters that his parents' summons was so urgent that he did not have time to wash his face or change his clothes.

"I was still sleepy when I faced them," he said, adding that when they handed him yesterday's edition of the INQUIRER, "for 30 minutes I did not understand what I was reading."

When the details of the banner story finally sank in, he was speechless, the young Arroyo said.

He said that he sought his parents' advice on what to do, and that they replied: "You have to talk to the media about this."

Asked whether his mother was angry that he had supposedly received P500,000 in 2003 from jueteng lords in Central Luzon, he said: "She's not mad at me because she knows that I [have] no part in [and am not] involved in these things."

He also said his parents knew that "it's not true" because "if you read the PDI article, it's really confusing."

The lawmaker said the allegation that he and his father were receiving jueteng protection money was "false, malicious and totally unsubstantiated."

He said he wanted the scandal over and done with as soon as possible: "[I should] either be cleared or charged. It's very embarrassing, especially because my wife had just given birth. Imagine, this will be my gift to my youngest child."

Espinosa

The bagman code-named B1 had told the INQUIRER that he was assigned by Mario Espinosa, former presidential adviser on Bicol affairs, to collect money from jueteng lords in Bicol, allegedly with the blessing of Mike Arroyo.

Santos acknowledged that the President's husband knew Espinosa, but had not seen him "for the past three years."

Asked how Mike Arroyo met Espinosa, the lawyer said he did not get this information from his client.

Espinosa is the nephew of Deputy Speaker for Luzon Emilio Espinosa, a senior member of the Nationalist People's Coalition faction allied with the administration bloc in the House.

Santos also said that only recently, the First Gentleman was pummeled in the media for his visit to Zamboanga City, when the latter only went to see ailing soldiers and give them a little assistance.

The lawyer urged the media to be responsible in reporting the news. He observed that in the INQUIRER report, one of the accusers admitted that he had no evidence to directly link the First Gentleman to jueteng operations.

He made a similar call in a statement, saying the media should "give the First Family, whose members have been unfairly vilified, a fair shake."

He challenged the accusers to come out and present their evidence to authorities.

Dared to come out

Congressman Arroyo also appealed to critics to "stop persecuting my family without any evidence."

He said politics was behind the renewed drive to implicate him and his father in jueteng.

"We challenge the so-called jueteng witnesses to come out and substantiate their allegations..." the lawmaker said. "We urge those behind them to spare the First Family from their attacks, especially my father, who is totally innocent of the charges."

Citing the supposed check for P500,000 that was allegedly coursed through a certain Tonton Roman, the young Arroyo said: "The check [was not deposited]. *Kung para sa akin, dineposito ko na* (If it was intended for me, I could have deposited it in my account)."

"I haven't seem him for the longest time," he said of Roman, supposedly a nephew (not a son, as earlier reported) of Bataan Rep. (not governor, as earlier reported) Pablo Roman.

Campaign funds source

He added that he got his campaign funds in 2004 "from my parents, the family of my wife, some friends."

Congressman Arroyo also said he would waive parliamentary immunity if the House committee on public order and security would summon him to an inquiry.

"I just want this whole thing to stop," he said.

Asked whether Malacañang considered the President's husband a liability to her image, Bunye said the question was "unfair" because it was based on "assumptions that still have to be proven."

Asked what could be the motive behind the allegations, he said: "There could be several motives. I think your guess is as good as mine."

In a statement, Bunye said Malacañang was not surprised by the fresh allegations against Ms Arroyo's husband and son, "as [the issue] has been in the rumor mill for the past weeks." *With a report from Nikko Dizon*

Church admits taking jueteng money in the past

From page A1

Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. the "Vatican of jueteng" because the illegal numbers racket flourishes there.

The unnamed Church official urged the INQUIRER to get the side of Pampanga Archbishop Paciano Aniceto regarding the close ties that some priests had fostered with gambling lords.

Due to a hectic schedule, the 68-year-old Aniceto turned down an INQUIRER request for an interview yesterday and instead gave this reporter a copy of his pastoral letter on Dec. 1, 2004. The three-page pastoral letter, written in Filipino and disseminated in 50 Pampanga parishes, was addressed to priests, jueteng operators, bettors, policemen and local officials.

Aniceto spelled out in the letter the archdiocese's policy against jueteng and his dream to see the racket stamped out as it robbed the poor of their hard-earned money.

"What is my message to priests receiving 'donations' from those who run jueteng? Even if we are having headaches in raising funds for the construction of churches or for the needs of our poor brethren, let us not seek help from jueteng operators," Aniceto said.

"When you are sent donations [by jueteng operators], don't insult them. Thank them and tell them, 'We were advised by our father archbishop, because we want to stop jueteng, [that] it is not right for us to be receiving donations coming from the game.''

Aniceto did not say in his letter how many of Pampanga's more than 200 priests were accepting jueteng money.

A local priest, who asked not to be identified, said he and his fellow clergymen had debated the issue and resolved to put a stop to the practice.

"We debated extensively this in our clergy gatherings until we came up with a stand, reflected by that statement [pastoral letter]" the priest said.

In his letter, Aniceto appealed to jueteng operators to stop the racket if they wanted to help the poor.

"I know you want to help the poor and many poor people are employed in jueteng and you have helped many churches and projects. But you will be helping more poor people if you stop jueteng?" he said.

In his letter, Aniceto even offered to intercede on behalf of gambling operators should authorities on the take pressure them to continue jueteng.

The archbishop said legalizing jueteng was not a solution to poverty. "Why should we make legal a game that bleeds the little income that the poor make to be able to sustain government projects?" Aniceto asked in his letter.

Free meals

Regarding the allegation of the unnamed Church official that priests were availing themselves of free meals at a restaurant owned by a jueteng operator in Pampanga, Aniceto's spokesperson, Msgr. Sonny Lumanog, denied this was a practice among his fellow clergymen.

Lumanog also denied claims that priests were receiving as much as P10,000 for Masses offered to the family of a jueteng lord.

What they do not turn down, he said, are requests to officiate Church rites or sacraments. "As priests, we cannot deny anyone the rites, not even to convicted criminals"

Lumanog acknowledged priests in Pampanga were in a "difficult situation," but said they were resisting attempts to be corrupted.

Paraphrasing one of Pope Benedict XVI's messages, Lumanog likened the Church to a grand shepherd in a table where different kinds of people, including sinful ones, were gathered around. "We're bound by our pastoral mission to help all," he said.

Fr. Pablo David, a local priest, described as unfair the INQUIRER story on Pampanga priests accepting money from jueteng operators.

"It was unfair to practically caricature every priest [in Pampanga] as pro-jueteng," David said. "Quite a number of us have been consistently antijueteng and openly preach against it in the pulpit in our Masses.

Aniceto's unequivocal stand against jueteng contrasts sharply with that of Jaime Cardinal Sin in 2000 when he was still the Manila archbishop.

With the Church under fire for condemning gambling while accepting P181 million in donations from Philippine Gaming and Amusement Corp., Sin said then that it was all right to accept money from the devil as long as it was spent on the poor.

"The devil ... remains my enemy but I will use his resources to feed the poor," Sin said in his statement, quoting St. John Bosco.

Alive and well

Five years after Sin issued his controversial statement, the devil remains alive and well in the country.

A jueteng kingpin in Bicol, whose turf had been taken over by a Pampanga gambling lord, has confirmed an earlier statement by Lingayen-Dagupan Archbishop Oscar Cruz that the illegal numbers racket had become more rampant during the administration of Ms Arroyo than during the jueteng-tainted tenure of ousted President Joseph Estrada.

"During Erap's time, jueteng lords were told to stop operations whenever things got hot. Now, jueteng continues despite being in the news and despite the pending jueteng investigation in the Senate," said the disgruntled gambling lord code-named "O1."

"It's unabated," he told the INQUIRER. *With a report from Norman Bordadora*

Ping cites reason jueteng operators spilling . . .

From page A1

the INQUIRER about the alleged involvement of the First Gentleman and his son.

Lacson, however, admitted that the witnesses had no direct evidence to pin down the First Gentleman and his son, Pampanga Rep. Juan Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo, to jueteng payola because the protection money was supposedly delivered by "conduits."

But this does not mean that the First Gentleman can rest easy. Lacson said Mike Arroyo should be invited to the Senate inquiry along with the supposed conduits and known jueteng lord Bong Pineda.

A jueteng operator and a confessed jueteng bagman told the INQUIRER that a Pampanga gambling lord was now operating not only in the Bicol provinces but also in Pangasinan, Isabela, Bataan and Mindoro island.

The two said that police and local officials were receiving payoffs from the Pampanga gambling lord.

Lacson, who sought the presidency in the 2004 elections but lost to Ms Arroyo, brushed off the President's three-year timetable to eradicate corruption, saying only political will backed by unsullied integrity could stop the scourge of corruption.

"These alone can dramatically end this culture of insatiable greed that sucks the life out of our economy," he told members of the French Chamber of Commerce and officials led by French Ambassador to the Philippines Renee Veyret.

Simple rule

He said there was no secret formula to stop graft, but only a simple rule—leadership by example.

Lacson told reporters that his witnesses also gave information about the alleged links of the First Gentleman and his son to the jueteng payoffs.

"They mentioned that but no direct [link]. They did not see them in person so it's hard to assume that the money was given to the First Gentleman. I said let's see," he said.

Lacson said the conduits of the jueteng lords should be invited to verify the allegations. For instance, he said one of his witnesses identified a former Pampanga vice mayor who was delivering the money to one of the M1, M2 and JS7, the alleged three close relatives of a high government official receiving the payola.

Lacson said it would not be correct to say that the allegations against the First Gentleman would go nowhere.

"I cannot really say that because the investigation has not started. But if we talk of present evidence, for now he can rest assured that it appears the hard evidence will not reach him. But so many things can develop between now and during the investigation," he said.

'Conclusion'

Unlike in courts where fool-proof evidence is required, the Senate investigation can reach a "conclusion" about the alleged links of presidential relatives to jueteng based on the credibility and testimony of witnesses, he said.

Lacson said the First Gentleman should be invited to the Senate investigation.

"As of now, since his name is being mentioned, I think there's a basis [for summoning him]. If he has nothing to hide, then he should be there. Because if there is really a link, you just make the parties sit side by side and you will see in their body language if they have a relationship," Lacson said.

Lacson dared President Macapagal-Arroyo and her family to open their bank accounts to scrutiny to dispel persistent reports of corruption involving her relatives.

Lacson said that in view of "so many issues of corruption" hounding the President's family and administration, she and her entire family should waive the Bank Secrecy Law to prove that they were not involved in corruption.

"When people are told that even close relatives of a high public official are involved in illegal gambling operations popularly known as jueteng, it's not difficult to understand why people easily believe alleged scandals involving them," he said.

"So I dare the President, members of her family and those of her spouse's family to be the first to sign such waivers," Lacson said.

By signing the waivers, he said, the President would have the "moral authority" to pursue her anticorruption campaign. *With a report from Christian V. Esguerra*

'Certain people never learn'

LINGAYEN-DAGUPAN Archbishop Oscar Cruz yesterday warned the Arroyo administration against flip-flopping in its efforts to go after jueteng operators and their beneficiaries.

In a statement, Cruz hinted that unless she really cracked down on illegal gambling, the President might suffer the same fate as her predecessor, Joseph Estrada.

"Certain people never learn," he said. "It was jueteng that once started a revolt. Will jueteng once more bring about national disgust? Will jueteng prove again that some people can be fooled sometime—but not all the people all the time?"

Estrada's downfall in 2001 was triggered by an exposé that the former President was receiving monthly jueteng payoffs.

Gov: Link to jueteng bad but . . .

From page A1

tagged in the INQUIRER story as allegedly one of the biggest "jueteng" operators in Southern Tagalog but, "more importantly," because he was called "Alyas Taba" by a police official.

The official had earlier confided to the INQUIRER that police were tracking down a jueteng lord who went by the aliases "Taba" and "Sanchez" in Sto. Tomas, Batangas.

It was an obvious allusion to Sanchez, who had also served as mayor of Sto. Tomas for six years.

A friend of Sanchez's yesterday said the governor expressed exasperation over the report at a recent lunch.

"They called me a jueteng lord and then they're calling me fatso. What kind of life is this?" the friend quoted Sanchez as saying in Filipino.

But the friend, who requested not to be named, said the governor was "just joking."

"The governor said he's not fat. He said he's on a South Beach diet," the friend added in a text message.

In a statement sent to the INQUIRER, Sanchez's counsel, Ferdinand Topacio, called on the media to exercise fairness in reporting on jueteng operations.

Topacio said Sanchez was "saddened" by how the media had been presenting stories on the illegal numbers game.

He lamented that the controversy over jueteng had turned into "a witch-hunt, with the names of supposed operators, [beneficiaries], and the like being bandied about liberally and with impunity."

"We remain firm in our conviction that if there are laws violated, then 'the hammer must fall, and fall heavily,' but an absence even of an investigation by the proper governmental agencies ... constitutes trial by publicity of the worst kind..." he said.

Topacio also urged media organizations "to exercise self-restraint and sobriety, and not misuse the awesome powers inherent in the Fourth Estate, which may be potentially destructive to the reputations of innocent people."

The statement, however, did not say whether Sanchez was denying any involvement with jueteng operations in Batangas.

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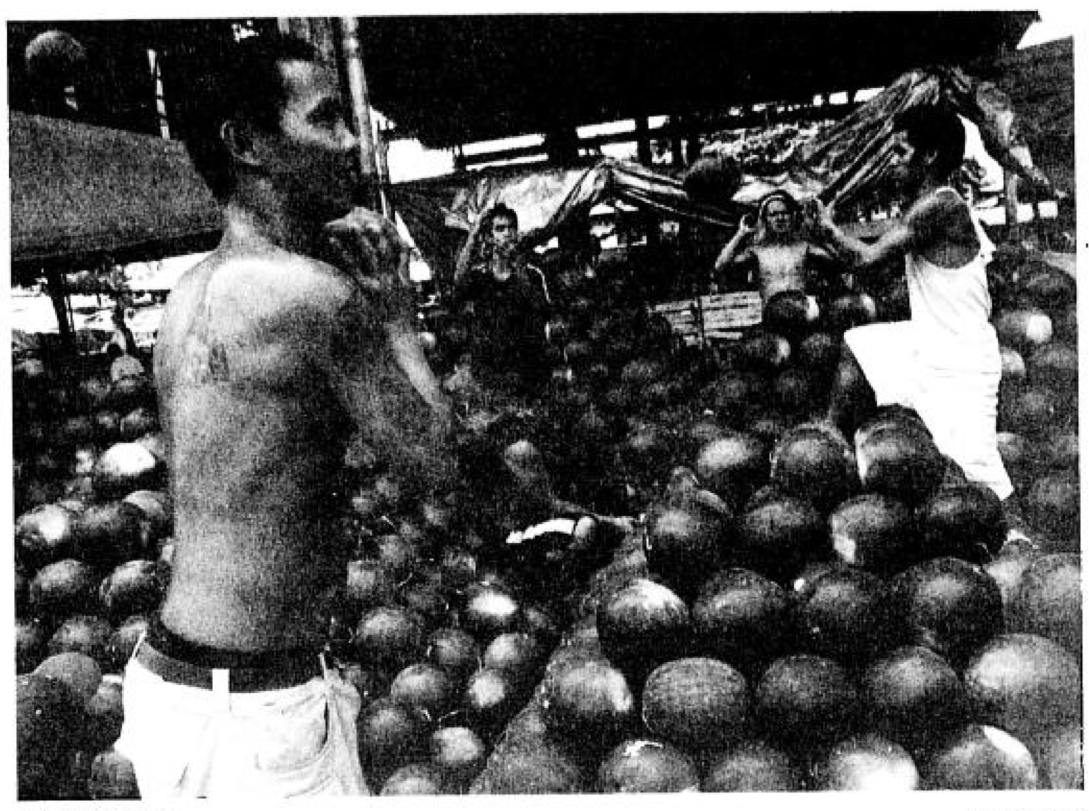
WILLIE REVILLAME SEXUAL HARASSMENT CASE

Apologies and a bouquet of roses



HOT ITEMS JOAN BONDOC
Vendors stack watermelons at the Viajera section of the Nepa Q-mart in Quezon City. Demand for the luscious fruit goes up as the temperature rises.

By DJ Yap

WILLIE said it with flowers.

An "I'm Sorry" card attached to a dozen peach-colored roses was the "smoking gun" that an entertainment editor believes will seal her acts-of-lasciviousness case against TV personality Willie Revillame.

The TV host-comedian reportedly sent Ma. Salvacion Asis the card with a bouquet of flowers in March 2002, a few days after he allegedly sexually molested her.

Asis, the entertainment editor of Pilipino Star Ngayon and Pang Masa, submitted the card yesterday as evidence before the Quezon City prosecutor's office to counter an affidavit of Revillame that denied the charges.

Revillame's lawyer Dexter Lacuanan said it was the first time he learned of the evidence, adding that it was premature to comment. He said he would have to consult with Revillame, who was not present at the hearing.

Asis' lawyer, Bonifacio Alentajan, said the card of apology disproved Revillame's counter-affidavit in which he denied apologizing to Asis after the incident.

The message on the front of the yellow card read: "I've known I was wrong for a while now, but I just couldn't admit it to you. I guess I've felt embarrassed about what happened and the things I said. I'm ready to put my pride aside and apologize to you."

Inside the card, it read: "I hope you can forgive me and believe that I'm truly sorry."

The message was ready-made for the card. The only written words were that addressed to "Salve" and that signed by "Willie."

It did not bear a date.

In his earlier counter-affidavit, Revillame said: "I further deny that I apologized to the complainant after the incident. I had nothing to apologize for because I committed no offense."

Ma. Lillian Fariñas, People's Journal Tonight columnist and a friend of Asis who witnessed the incident, said Revillame also sent her a card and a bouquet of flowers after the incident. She said her card had a slightly different message, but was also an apology.

In an interview, Asis said she did not include the card as evidence in her initial complaint-affidavit because she knew Revillame would deny the charges. She said she kept it as a form of leverage to strengthen her case, adding that there was "more to come."

Lacuanan said he believed the truth would come out.

Revillame has until May 26 to submit a rejoinder, after which the Quezon City fiscal will decide if there is probable cause to file a case before the court.

In her complaint affidavit, Asis said Revillame touched her breasts and forced her to hold his private parts. She said he kissed her forcibly on the lips, ears and cheeks.

"I did none of the acts she is accusing me of, much less with force and violence," said Revillame in his counter-affidavit.

Asis said Revillame invited her and Fariñas to his home in Capitol Hills, Quezon City. On their way back to Padi's Point on Mindanao Avenue, where Farinas' van was parked, Revillame allegedly assaulted Asis.

Debate on MMDA powers threatens agency's budget

By Fran Katigbak

THE MEETING yesterday between the Metro Manila Council (MMC) and Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) chair Bayani Fernando ended in a stalemate.

Fernando and the mayors again could not agree on the functions of the MMDA, which led to a debate that sidelined other items on the MMC's agenda like the agency's P2.37-billion budget.

Manila Mayor Lito Atienza said the MMDA could not legislate and should instead coordinate with local government units before implementing laws.

"The mayors will not change their position [on the issue] because it supports the decisions of the Supreme Court," Atienza explained.

A recent Supreme Court ruling prohibited the MMDA from confiscating drivers' licenses, while the Makati Regional Trial Court issued a permanent injunction against the agency's Metropolitan Traffic Ticket and the No-Contact Traffic Apprehension schemes.

The MMDA has appealed the injunction order and believes that pending a final order the agency could still enforce its schemes.

"We (mayors) cannot agree with him," Atienza said.

The mayor added that unless the MMDA follows the law, anarchy and violence would continue to grow in Metro Manila.

"How do we bring back the lives that were lost in Parañaque, Baclaran, Caloocan, Quezon City and Manila because of the MMDA's refusal to follow the law?" Atienza told the media.

Violence erupted in these places after the MMDA enforced antivending and traffic laws that the mayors failed to implement.

Fernando said the MMDA was not violating the law.

"The law says anyone can make an appeal at a certain time and that's exactly what I did. I will follow the court's decision," said Fernando.

He said nothing was resolved in the meeting because the discussion focused on whether or not the MMC had the right to approve the MMDA budget. *With Tina G. Santos*

Tighter security at City Hall

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

POLICE have employed tighter security measures at the Mandaluyong City Hall compound after a series of burglaries last week.

"We have stepped up our security measures by deploying more security officers at night," said Mayor Neptali "Boyet" Gonzales.

The local Commission on Elections (Comelec) office, sandwiched between other government offices in the crowded compound, had been victimized by burglars twice in five days. The office lost computer hard disks and other parts and four digital cameras in the two robberies.

Because of the incidents, the Comelec decided to suspend the new round of voters' registration in the city until next week with the loss of office equipment.

Cool operation

The latest robbery was discovered on Monday. Police said the burglar even managed to drag an electric fan to the computer room to cool himself as he dismantled the computers to get the parts.

"The burglars had been targeting computer parts. They probably know a lot about computers," Gonzales said.

He said the tighter security had resulted in the arrest of two suspected thieves the other night who were believed to be interested in bringing out construction materials from a building construction project in the compound. The interior and local government local office and the health department had also reported similar attacks a few days ago.

More traffic jams expected leading to MacArthur route

By Leila B. Salaverria

WITH the ongoing widening of the MacArthur Highway, motorists using the popular route are advised to brace themselves for more traffic jams, especially with the opening of classes in June.

An official of the Department of Public Works and Highways yesterday said that road congestion could be expected with the return to school of thousands of students who use the Highway, especially since they may have to contend with the construction equipment on the road and the closure of some lanes.

"We're prepared for that and we will try our best to minimize the inconveniences for motorists," said DPWH Assistant Secretary Manuel Agyao.

He said the DPWH would be implementing at least one innovation that would speed up construction work on the national highway and ensure that the road need not be closed for a long period.

According to Agyao, the concrete that the department would be using would dry in only 14 days rather than the 28 days that it usually takes.

"We have minimized the curing time by 50 percent by mixing an additive to make the concrete dry faster," he said.

Under the project, more lanes would be added to the stretch of the road from Meycauayan, Bulacan to Tarlac province.

The MacArthur Highway has been serving as an alternative route for motorists who want to avoid paying high fees at the North Luzon Expressway.

METROBRIEFS

She 'flunked' test

A HOUSEWIFE was arrested in Quezon City last week for allegedly extorting thousands of pesos from unwary victims so they could pass the civil service examinations with flying colors.

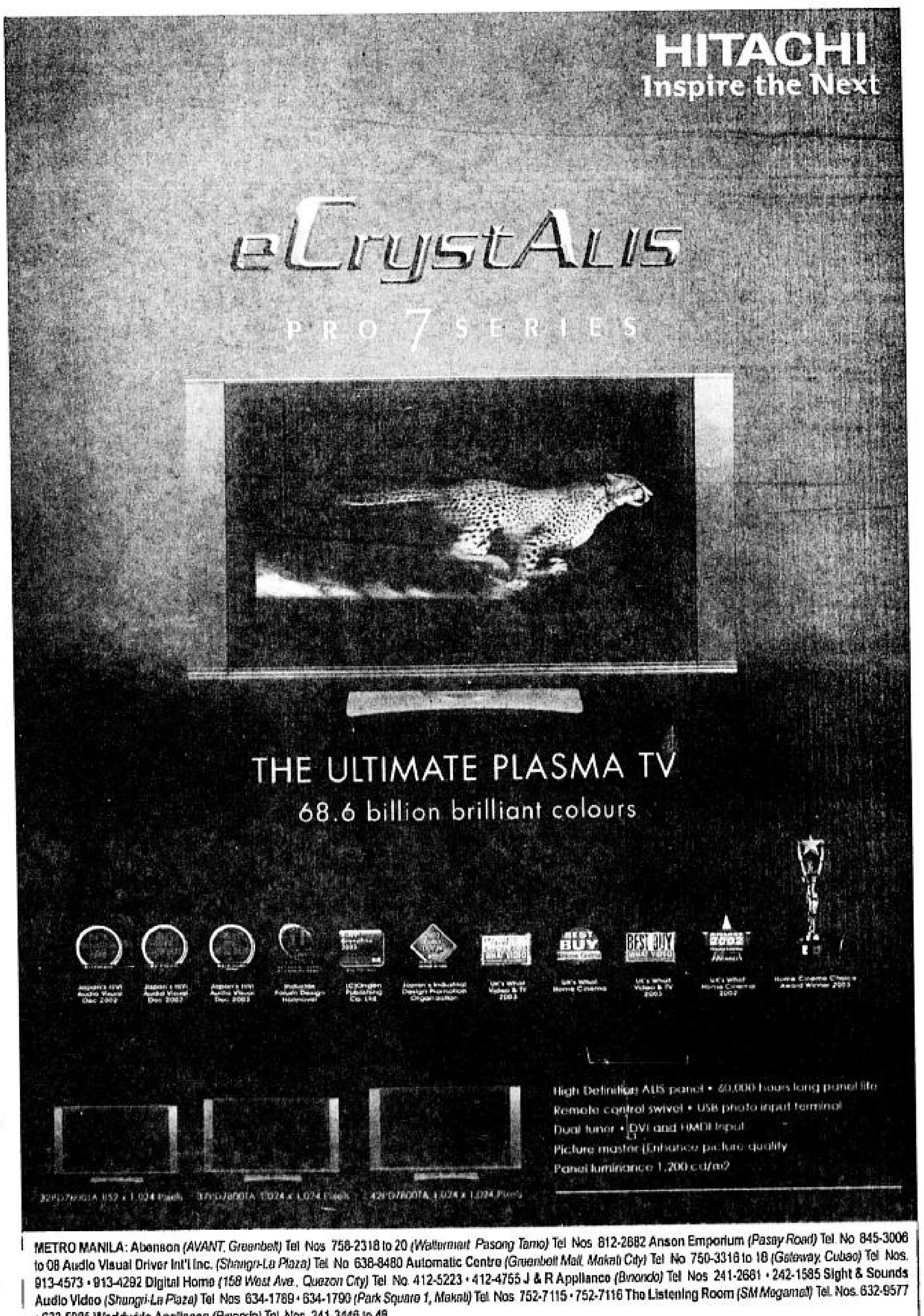
The suspect was identified as Rachel Roda, alias "Rachel Hogan," 36, of 53 Sto. Nino St., Commonwealth, Quezon City. According to National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) officials, Roda allegedly pretended to be an administrative officer of the Land Transportation Office when she convinced victim Al- no Clavel to pay P5,000 to ome of her "connections" from the Civil Service Commission. The fee, according to NBI Anti-Fraud and Computer Crimes Division (AFCCD) chief lawyer Elfren Meneses, assured the victim a high passing grade of 87.46 for the exams scheduled last April 10. *Margaux C. Ortiz*

Jehovah meet

More than 2,000 Jehovah's Witnesses from Manila, Malabon, Navotas, and as far as Lubang Island in Mindoro will gather for their two-day annual Circuit Assembly at the Metro Manila Assembly Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses at the Quirino Highway, Kaligayahan, Novaliches, Quezon City on May 21- 22. Geoffrey Guevara, circuit overseer of Jehovah's Witnesses' Manila Circuit No. 2, said the assembly theme is "Be Guided by the Wisdom From Above." Jehovah's Witnesses invite everyone to attend the two-day assembly. All sessions are free and the public is welcome to attend.

IS reunion

THE American/International School of Manila, in cooperation with the Jeepney Gang Alumni Association, will celebrate its 85th anniversary with a spectacular jamboree for all its teachers and students who attended either the pioneering American School or its successor, International school of Manila. From June 10 to 12, alumni will converge at the Hyatt Hotel in San Jose, California to recollect, reminisce, and rekindle friendships. The IS's new building is located at Fort Bonifacio in Makati City.



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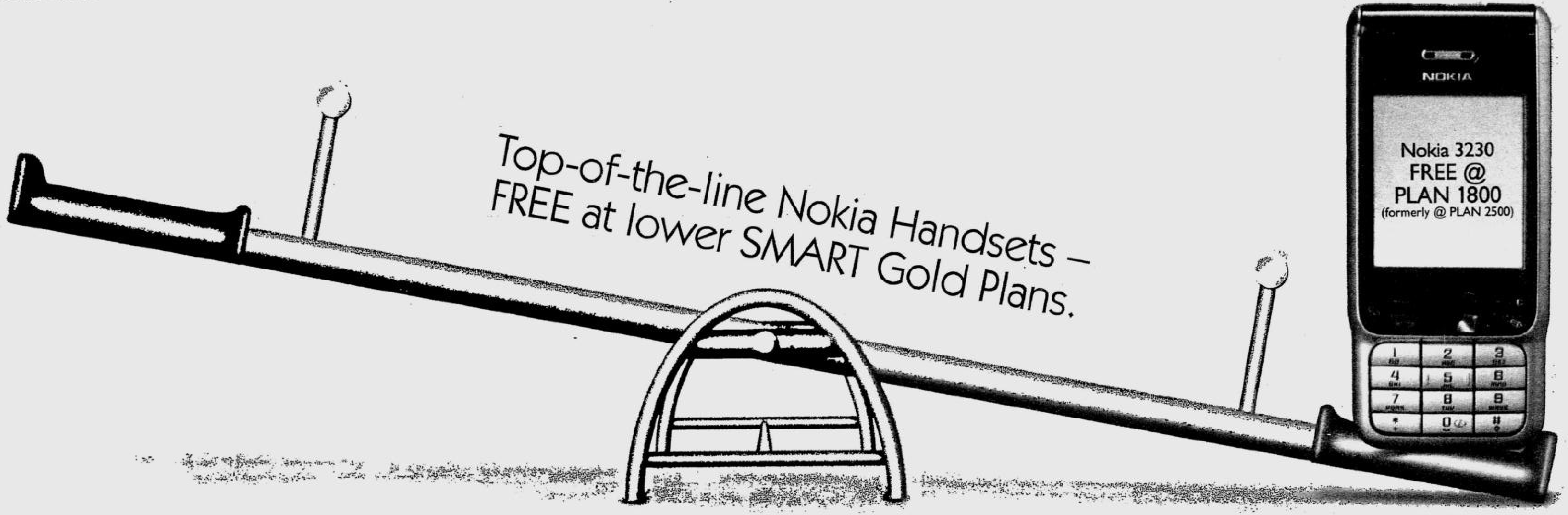
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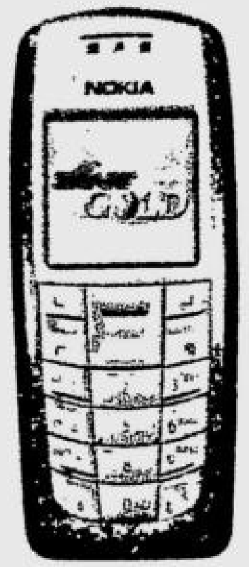
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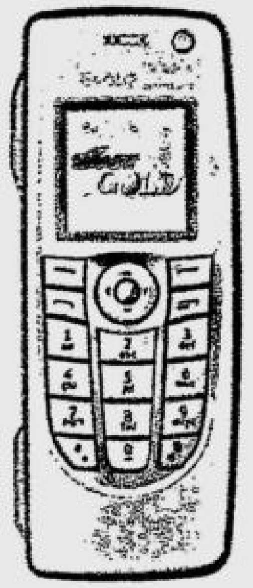
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SPORTS
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Aussie up with 66; Que, Juvic two down

By Musong R. Castillo

LIPA CITY—Andrew Buckle did everything but crumble in the face of trying conditions yesterday, shooting a five-under-par 66 to lead an unheralded Thai by one and the brightest local hopes by two after 18 holes of the 89th Philippine Open.

The 22-year-old Aussie churned out bogey-free nines of 32-34, bucking the sudden strong winds and solving the tricky greens of the composite Malarayat layout here to move ahead of Thailand's Somkiat Srisa-Nga (33-34).

Local star Angelo Que shook off opening-day jitters in the nick of time to sign for a 68 like Filipino amateur ace Juvic Pagunsan (33-35) and tie for third with Australia's Adam Blyth (32-36) and Chris Travers (34-34), American Bryan Saltus (31-37) and Scot John Wither (34-34).

Buckle, an Asian Tour rookie from Brisbane, proved unshakeable while the rest of the field struggled on the sleek greens and found himself leading an Asian Tour event for the second time in three weeks.

"I guess being patient was the key (for me) today," said Buckle, who paced the SK Telecom Open in Korea in the first two rounds only to finish tied for second with American legend Fred Couples. "The greens were tricky and it was easy to get careless out there."

Two of Que's three bogeys came from three putts, while Pagunsan highlighted his round with six birdies, including a string of four from the third, to make up for an opening bogey and dropped shots on Nos. 9 and 16.

Que, who had four birdies before an eagle on the par-5 18th where he gently landed an 8-iron from 160 yards to within six feet of the cup, capped his a roller-coaster round a few minutes before sundown.

"I felt the pressure," said Que, whose fiancé, Tracy Locsin, caddied for him. "Though I settled down in time, I still feel there's room for improvement for the rest of the week.

"I didn't drive the ball that well today and I was missing some pretty easy iron shots, though not by that much."

Former winner Gerald Rosales threw away a four-under card in his first six holes and settled for a 69, tied with five others for ninth place even as Cassius Casas, the 2001 champ, fired a quiet 70 (34-36) for joint 15th place.

Pagunsan, the second placer behind Edward Michaels last year, took advantage of ideal conditions with an early tee time, before Que, Buckle and the rest of the big guns battled strong winds and a 10-minute downpour at high noon.

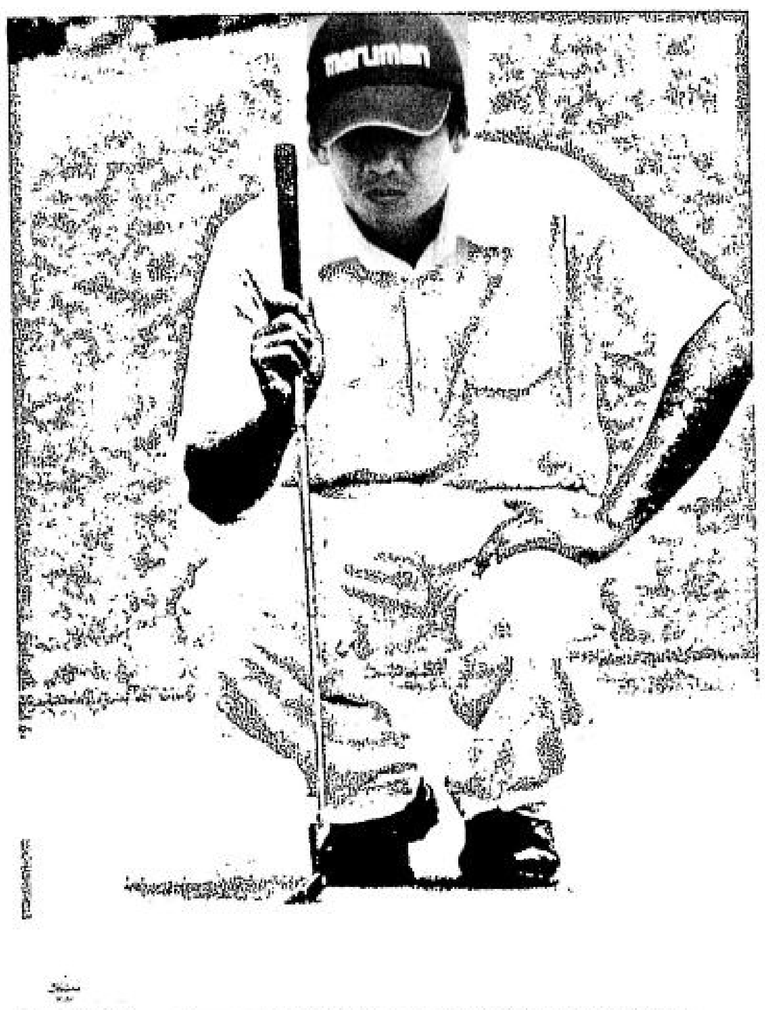
The 26-year-old Pagunsan will be bidding, for the second straight year, to become the first amateur since 1967 to win the Open after Taiwanese Hsu Sheng-san.

After Srisa-Nga, veteran Boonchu Ruangkit (34-36) was the best-placed Thai, as he tied Casas and journeyman Rey Pagunsan.

A total of 21 players broke par with 11 submitting level cards. The top 65 scores and ties after the second round will qualify for the weekend and battle for the $31,500 winner's paycheck.

The $200,000 Asian Tour tilt is co-presented by San Miguel Corp. and ICTSI, with Pagcor, PAL, Hanjin heavy industries and construction company limited, Aboitiz Group, Petron Blaze, PCSO, the Department of Tourism and Malarayat's The Hotel and The Inn as backers.

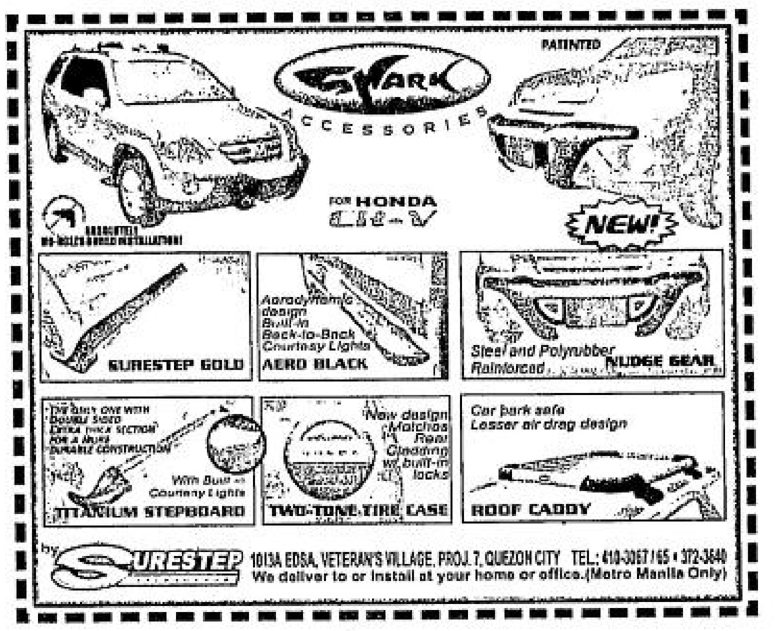
Omega is the official timer and is a partner of the event like BMG Solar, Konica U-Bix, Human by Bench, Universal Robina Corp., Centennial Savings Bank, Patio Pacific of Boracay and Mizuno.



FILIPINO amateur ace Juvic Pagunsan studies his putt on No. 4 during the first day of the Philippine Open.

First round scores

66—A. Buckle (AUS)
67—S. Srisa-nga (THA)
68—C. Travers (AUS), A. Blyth (AUS), B. Saltus (US), J. Pagunsan (a) (RP), A. Que (RP), J. Wither (SCO)
69—S. Mao-Chang (TPE), C. Rodgers (UK), R. Won (US), K. Katoh (JAP), D. Griff (CAN), G. Rosales (RP)
70—S. Kapur (IND), B. Ruangkit (THA), A. Zahari (MAL), S. Taylor (US), F. Casas (RP), J. Lyle (AUS), R. Pagunsan (RP).
71—L. Seong-Ki (KOR), J. Stewart (HK), J. Lupprian (GER), J. Chitprasong (THA), R. Backwell (AUS), H. Takeuchi (JAP), R. Gibson (CAN), A. Prathummanee (THA), H. Yoshida (JAP), G. Morales (VEN), A. Vesconte (AUS), H. Tung-Shu (TPE), M. Gyu Cho (a) (KOR).
72—U. Duangdecha (THA), A. Cruz (RP), V. Bhandari (IND), J. Dawes (AUS), K. Horne (SA), A. Singh (IND), T. Lascuna (RP), A. Quiroz (MEX), M. Pucay (RP), R. Bain (SCOT), P. Spargo (AUS), J. Bernis (a) (RP), E. Quiachon (RP), R. Nachimuthu (MAL), A. Anura (SRI), D. Chia (MAL), D. Fung (HK), C. Gill (UK)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Gordon to spearhead Fiba-Asia hosting bid

FOR a change, here's a pleasant development for the Basketball Association of the Philippines.

Sen. Richard Gordon yesterday agreed to become the project director of the country's bid to host the Fiba-Asia Men's Championships slated in 2007.

The event is highly significant because it serves as a qualifier for the 2008 Beijing Olympics, which is the ultimate goal of the PBA-backed national pool training under coach Chot Reyes.

Gordon, the former Tourism secretary, gladly accepted the challenge of trying to win over other bidders like India, South Korea, Qatar and China.

To start the ball rolling, Gordon said he'll be hosting a dinner for Fiba-Asia officials, who'll be coming over on May 27 for the Fiba-Asia Champions Cup set May 29-June 5 at the Araneta Coliseum.

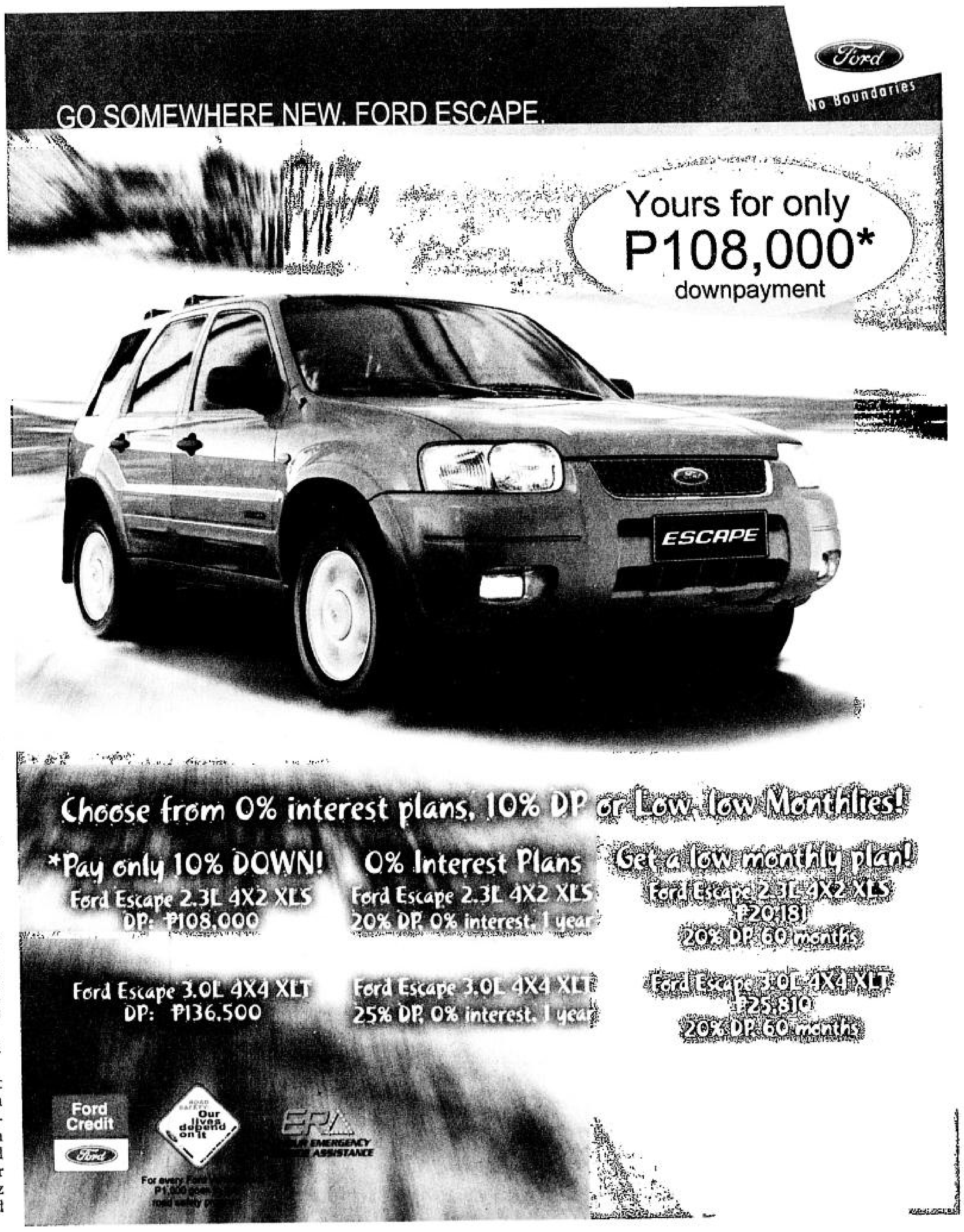
During the dinner, to be graced by Fiba-Asia president Sheikh Saud Bin Ali Al-Thani and Fiba secretary general Dato Yeoh Choo Hock, Gordon will present the BAP's plans and preparations for the 16-nation event, where the top two finishers will advance to the Olympics.

As host, China is already assured of an Olympic berth.

BAP executive vice president Christian Tan presented to Gordon his appointment papers at the Senate late afternoon yesterday. Tan was accompanied by BAP legal counsel Boni Alentajan, VP for Visayas Boy Codinera, auditor Fritz Gaston and men's commission head Turo Valenzona.

Tan said Gordon's acceptance greatly enhanced the Philippines' chances because the senator is known internationally as an action man and event organizer.

Gordon's appointment is a whiff of fresh air for the BAP which is facing an impending suspension from the POC on May 26 during its general assembly meeting. *Roy Luarca*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Ozamiz spoils Cebu's NBC debut

OZAMIZ CITY—Billy Bansil sparkled as host Ozamiz Cotta spoiled the debut of defending champion Tribu Sugbu, 85-79, Wednesday night in the 2005 Panasonic-NBC national basketball championship at the Gov. Angel Medina Sr. gym here.

The 6-foot-4 Bansil came through with 17 points, 11 boards, three assists, one steal and one block, including key baskets in the homestretch, to frustrate the Skygo/Sirlitz-backed Cebuanos, who mounted a fierce rally in the third after falling behind by 18.

After Alex Caingler bungled a shot that could have tied the game, Bansil scored successive jumpers to give Mayor Reynaldo Parojinog's Ozamiz cagers breathing room, 79-73, in the last two minutes.

With their fourth straight win, Ozamiz solidified its southern conference lead in the tourney supported by Panasonic, Sulpicio Lines, Cebu Pacific, Philtranco, Spring Cooking Oil, Accel, Molten, Sunbolt, Nature's Spring, Far Eastern Insurance, Skygo Motorcycles, Sirlitz Solutions Provider, Ping Ping Lechon, Rough Rider Jeans, Bayview Park Hotel and Holiday Plaza-Cebu.

Over at the rain-drenched Tagaytay Sports Complex, Mayor Freddie Tinga's Forward Taguig bounced back from a 70-86 loss to the RP-BAP training team by trouncing Bacoor Vice Mayor Edwin Malvar's Cavite Insurers, 74-61.

Taguig improved its record to 3-1.

Last Tuesday, the RP-BAP squad survived a late rally by Laguna Spring to hack out a 90-85 victory, its second straight in the regional cagefest.

KG Canaleta and Don Villamin paced the Nationals, who are preparing for the Seaba championship next month in Singapore, with 22 and 17 points, respectively.

The scores:

OZAMIZ 85—Bansil 17, Ilanga 13, Cabigkis 13, Liangco 11, Conmigo 7, Nicdao 5, Delina 5, Alvarado 5, Sampilo 5, Aquino 4, Cortes 0, Caylan 0, Libatog 0, Basco 0.

CEBU 79—Ursal 14, Briones 13, Almacin 13, Bucao 11, Caingiet 10, Huelar 7, Pening 4, Paglinawan 3, Reyes 2, Magsumbol 2, Mangubat 0, Binongo 0, Luga 0.

Quarters: 24-25, 50-43, 69-59, 85-79

TAGUIG 74—Villar 19, Marucot 12, Ricafuerte 9, Robillos 8, De Castro 8, Dulay 6, Reguera 4, Sablan 4, Gonzales 2, Dela Rosa 2, De Guia 0.

CAVITE 61—Nunez 12, M. Santos 9, Sierra 7, Valdez 6, Quiambao 6, V. Santos 5, Plodo 5, Panares 4, Attunaga 4, Mopera 3, Finullar 0, Santiago 0.

Quarters: 16-22, 39-37, 59-50, 74-61

Phone Pals eye s'finals vs Aces

GAMES TODAY (Cuneta Astrodome)
4:45 p.m.—Sta. Lucia vs Shell
7:35 p.m.—Talk N Text vs Alaska

TALK 'N Text aims to secure one of two outright berths to the semifinals even as Sta. Lucia Realty hopes to sustain its winning run today in the 2005 Gran Matador PBA Fiesta Conference at the Cuneta Astrodome.

A victory over the Alaska Aces at 7:35 p.m. will guarantee the Phone Pals an automatic top-seed ranking, leaving San Miguel Beer, Sta. Lucia and Alaska to dispute the other semifinal slot.

The top two spots after the classification round of the eliminations will advance outright to the best-of-five semifinals and have the luxury of rest while lower-ranked teams fight for survival in the wildcard phase.

The Realtors go up against Shell in the curtain-raiser, eyeing the No. 2 seat.

The Realtors seized their ninth win in 16 games Wednesday night at the expense of the Aces.

On a four-game roll, the Realtors have won eight of their last nine games and are six of seven without the injured Marlou Aquino to create a three-way tie with the Aces and the Beermen.

The Turbochargers are seeking to cut the Realtors' string of victories and break out of their own slump after losing three straight and 10 of their last 16 games.

Meanwhile, Earl Barron sizzled for the second straight game to lead the Barako to a methodical 90-80 beating of the Coca-Cola Tigers last night at the CEU Centrodome in Malolos, Bulacan.

The former Memphis University ace topscored with 26 points for the Barako, who clinched their eighth victory in 16 games. Barron also starred in his debut against the Shell Turbochargers last week by firing 34 points and grabbing 13 boards.

Mark Sanford had 26 for the Tigers, who suffered their 11th loss in 16 outings.

In the second game, FedEx nipped Purefoods, 91-90, to climb to 8-7. The Hotdogs dropped to 7-9.

June Navarro

The scores:

RED BULL 90—Barron 26, Tugade 14, Villanueva 11, Bagulo 9, Meneses 8, Robinson 6, Asaytono 6, Ybanez 5, Valenzuela 3, Torion 2, Ejercito 0, Feihl 0, Gahol 0.

COCA-COLA 80—Sanford 26, Juinio 11, Peek 10, Francisco 8, Singson 6, Chia 5, Wainwright 4, Morano 4, Avenido 2, Abarrientos 2, Antonio 2.

Quarters: 16-18, 39-36, 68-55, 90-80

PHONE PALS
13

DANNY Seigle, who twists his ankle against Victor Pablo of Talk N Text, is diagnosed with a third-degree sprain. The San Miguel coaching staff expects him to be out for two to three weeks. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

WALL CLIMBERS: Ina Flores (1st place), Lissa Lesaca (2nd), and Bambi Ramiro show their trophies after winning the 60-feet scale up sports tilt in Alaminos, Pangasinan. The event was one of the highlights of the Hundred Islands Festival, a sports and tourism promotions program spearheaded by Alaminos City Mayor Hernani Braganza.

Yee-Tambunting duel up

MIKO Yee kept his explosive form to win his first two match play outings and reach the semifinals of The Montecillo Cup! The Philippine Junior Golf Championships at the Legends course of the Manila Southwoods Golf and Country Club in Carmona, Cavite.

After topping the stroke play eliminations in runaway fashion to emerge as the top seed, Yee bundled out No. 16 Gino Bunyi, 4&3, then returned to oust Jijkjik Abdon via a 2&1 decision.

Yee guns for a final slot against Tambunting, who took the last two holes then went through three extra holes before beating young Wolen Superal. Tambunting, the fourth seed, tripped Marcel Puyat, 4&2, while Superal shocked Joey Huerva of Bacolod, 6&4.

The other boys semifinal features Miko Alejandro against Aran Olea after Alejandro disposed of Aaron Dimabuyu and Marco Olives in succession and Olea took out IG Gutierrez and Gabriel Atienza in matches that went the distance.

Cyna Rodriguez stayed on the road to her biggest title yet when she arranged a semis tiff with Bambee dela Paz in the girls side of the event, the second major leg of the Samsung Jungolf Tour also given major backing by Philippine Airlines with Titleist/Dynamic Sports Corp., Toyota Motor Philippines, Corp. and Unilever as minor sponsors.

Amalia Montecillo, the founder of the Junior Golf Foundation of the Philippines founder in whose honor the tourney is being staged, will be awarding the prizes to the winners today.

Rodriguez booted out No. 1 qualifier Mia Piccio 2 &1 while dela Paz survived Regine de Guzman 3&1. The other finals slot will be disputed by Crystal Superal and Paulina who turned back Sunshine Baraquiel (4&3) and Debbie de Villa (3&1).

Topping the 36-hole competitions were Bino dela Paz (Class C), JP de Claro (Class D), AR Ramos (Class E) and Tommy Agojo (Class F) in the boys division and Dottie Ardina (Class C), Andie Unson (Class D) Dana Gonzales (Class E) and Abby Arevalo (Class F).

SPORTSWATCH

Simpkins fined P30,000

ALASKA import Dickey Simpkins was fined for banging his shoulder against Sta. Lucia Realty coach Alfrancis Chua following the Realtors' 74-73 win over the Aces Wednesday night. Though he escaped suspension, the 6-foot-9 Simpkins will be asked to shell out P30,000 as penalty for his unsportsmanlike conduct, according to sources within the PBA Commissioner's Office. A letter signed by PBA Commissioner Noli Eala was supposed to be handed to the former Chicago Bull late yesterday afternoon, but Alaska team officials have yet to confirm if Simpkins received the written verdict or not. Simpkins was summoned yesterday by the commissioner's office accompanied by Alaska coach Tim Cone, who had a verbal spat with Chua inside the Araneta tunnel after the incident. Just seconds after the final buzzer sounded, Simpkins jogged the length of the court and ran into Chua, his right shoulder colliding against the back of the unsuspecting Sta. Lucia mentor. Enraged, Chua went after Simpkins and hurled invectives but ended up figuring in a shouting match with Cone.

Filipino riders struggle

THE RP-PAGCOR Casino Filipino Trade Team continued to struggle in the 9th Tour of Japan cycling classic with four of it riders unable to finish the grueling third stage in the Minami Shinsu Prefecture Wednesday. This left veteran skipper Victor Espiritu and Ronald Gorantes to carry the fight for the RP-Pagcor riders in the strength-sapping 155.30-kilometer rolling circuit course in Minami Shinsu won by Team Bario World's Felix Ravalo Cardenas. With three Kazakhstan cyclists breathing down his neck, Cardenas ruled the Shimosaka circuit in four hours, 12' minutes and .01 seconds, followed by Capec's Kairat Baigudinov (4:12.06), Alexandr Dyachenko (4:12.09) and Assan Basayan (4:12.16), who placed second to fourth, respectively. Espiritu, the 1996 Marlboro Tour champion, crossed the finish line in 38th place with Koji Fukushima of Team Bridgestone Anchor in 4:19.46.

Cocker of the Year race

WHO will be this year's PCCA Cocker of the Year winner? The answer will be known tonight when the "Pasay Cockpit Cockers Association (PCCA) Grand Championship 4–Cock Derby" gets under way at Pasay City Cockpit with 62 matches sponsored by Sagupaan Complexor 3000 and Casino Filipino–Silahis. Among the top contenders are former World Slasher champion Rey Briones, Jake Macasaet, Pol Estrellado, Lito" Orillaza and Rudy Salud, Benjie Lim, Jack Chung, Joey Lapid, Joel Fernando, Jun Marasigan, Maj. Bobby Doromal, ASF Group, Willam Go, Rud Moreno and Jun Villar. Meanwhile, about 40 entries are expected to compete next week in William Go's 4-cock derby. At stake is a cash prize of P300,000. Pasay Cockpit's regular 2-cock *ulutan* (P6,000 per champion) resumes on Sunday. For inquiries, contact 843–1890, 843–1746 and 816- 6750.

5 entries top GCAP tilt

FIVE entries shared the championship of the "Gentlemen Cockers Association of the Philippines (GCAP) 7–Cock Derby" Wednesday night at Las Piñas Coliseum. With identical 5-win, 2-loss records are Sabong Pinoy Live of Patrick Antonio, MGM 2 Milky Wing Strike of Tony Marfori, JU AS WG Listana of William Go, Winning Time Jobo of Lito Orillaza and Makati Col June 8 of Tony Lasala. GCAP will hold its "Grand Championship 5–Cock One Day Derby" on Monday to determine the Cocker of the Year winner. A prize of P1 million awaits the Cocker of the Year winner, GCAP founder Patrick Antonio said. Action starts at 4 p.m. on Monday featuring about 70 fights. For inquiries, contact 873 -1040, 874 - 3910 and 0926 -7450375.

Murad gets injunction against Pacman

RING Magazine featherweight champion Manny Pacquiao won't be fighting this year in the United States for any promoter other than Murad Muhammad.

Just hours after Pacquiao announced that his estranged promoter "remains fired," a representative of the American promoter revealed that Muhammad has already obtained an injunction that will prevent the Filipino ring idol from fighting in the United States.

"If somebody is dreaming that Manny Pacquiao can fight in the United States come September or even the whole of next year, they must be dreaming though wide awake," Muhammad's representative said in an e-mail. "Manny must remember that he signed a four-fight contract with Muhammad and there's two more fight left," it added.

The letter also emphasized that the loud-mouthed promoter will not step backward against whatever legal battle Pacquiao has hatched against him.

"As of this writing, an injunction to prevent Pacman to fight in the US has been readied a couple of months ago and if Pacman believes that he can sustain a long legal battle with Murad, he is wrong, dead wrong," the letter pointed out.

Pacquiao's trainer Freddie Roach confirmed in an interview with boxing website Fightnew.com Tuesday that the Filipino will be gunning for the International Boxing Federation junior lightweight crown of Robbie "Bomber" Peden of Australia in September most likely in the US.

The fight is supposed to be a warm-up for Pacquiao's rematch with Mexican Erik Morales, who beat the Filipino last March in Las Vegas. *Salven L. Lagumbay, contributor*

SIDE-BY SIDE: Reigning Asian Karting Queen Michelle Bumgarner of M&M Racing and Karter of the Year Matteo Guidicelli came side-by-side as they crossed the finish line. Bumgarner prevailed by just 0.004 of a second in the ICA Open classy in the third leg of the 2005 Shell Helix Superkarting Series recently.

Wright very wrong about rematch

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

THERE'S only one way Don King should be allowed to promote a middleweight rematch between Winky Wright and Felix Trinidad.

King must be made to show living proof that it was not Trinidad who showed up and got methodically dismantled by Wright in Las Vegas last Sunday.

King had faced several legal suits for dubious deals.

But, based on latest feeds, King may yet succeed in perpetrating what promises to be the greatest heist in the history of modern-day boxing.

And Winky Wright, perennially underrated but who has regularly come up with startling, stunning wins, could be party to the crime.

***

Just when you thought you've heard and seen the craziest things in boxing, an incredible shot floors you.

Reported the Associated Press: "Winky Wright had barely finished giving the performance of his life and already he was talking about how he and Felix Trinidad should do it again."

Wright, indeed, had signed a rich rematch clause before last Sunday's mainer in Vegas.

But after he had toyed with Trinidad, an 8-5 favorite, and made the Puerto Rican ring icon look like a blind, drunken bum inside the ring, that rematch clause must be rescinded.

It's the only decent thing to do in order to show that sanity still reigns in prizefighting.

***

Wright should've kept quiet and savored what's said to be the greatest performance of his career.

Instead, he was promptly up there to sing the same tune Don King had been humming ahead.

"He showed a lot of heart, I just can't wait for a rematch," said Wright in blind praise of his devastated foe.

Well, maybe Wright and King had once teamed up to flog a dead horse.

But, if you ask any self-respecting fight enthusiast, the Wright-Trinidad is deader than dead.

***

Yes, a lot of heart?

But Trinidad may have a heart as big as Puerto Rico and it would've not made any difference.

The fight, if it could be called such, was fought in Las Vegas Sunday morning in Manila, and replayed on local television that same evening.

At least, your reporter here was lucky enough to have cushioned the impact courtesy of a text message from L.A. that said Trinidad had lost miserably.

Still, we spent Sunday evening before the boob-tube to see what really happened.

The fight report said Wright totally dominated the bout, landing a total of 262 clear punches to only 58 by Trinidad.

The match had actually turned into a 12-round parody.

Trinidad was generally dumb, flat and predictable. In fact, it appeared that Wright had him on a leash, not too different from a chained chimp being led around the park by his master.

The Puerto Rican ring great was inexplicably tame, shallow and obedient as an overfed slave.

He had got no power in his fists, nor grace or spring in his legs.

***

It was only his second defeat, after a knockout loss to the great Bernard Hopkins two years ago, but Trinidad fumbled like a straying convalescent patient.

It could be what experts had said about too many punches in too many nights, in too many rings.

Anyway, as it has become clear that it was actually Felix Trinidad who fought in Las Vegas on Sunday, Don King must shift tactics.

If the rematch pushes through, he should make sure that Wright gets into the ring but only after an all-night swing with half a dozen Vegas dames at a nearby bar.

Wright should also be made to down no less than two bottles of bourbon, neat.

That's the only way Trinidad could appear less agitated and confused, although it's no vouch he could salvage a win.

That's also a neat trick to save the public from the craziest boxing rematch of all time.

Ubas sends foe to hospital in Nat'l slugfest

By Dennis U. Eroa
INQUIRER Libre sports editor

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—A farmer's son from the town of Montevista in Compostela Valley sent shock waves in the pinweight division yesterday as he became the first boxer here to send an opponent to the hospital with a crushing second round stoppage in Day Three of the National Youth and Women's Amateur Boxing Championship at the Puerto Princesa City Coliseum.

Sandy Joven Ubas sent Jun Ray Aborot of Camiguin Island to the canvas with a right straight to the face two minutes into the second round to barge into the semifinals against Cotabato Province's Rommel Asenso in this weeklong event presented by the Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines and the Puerto Princesa City government, headed by Mayor Edward S. Hagedorn.

Aborot, glassy-eyed and obviously hurt, lay flat on his back for several seconds, forcing medical workers headed by Dr. Raul Alcantara of the Philippine Center for Sports Medicine to rush to the boxer's aid.

The Camiguin bet was carried out on a stretcher and was rushed to the nearby Palawan Adventist Hospital for observation. Alcantara later told the INQUIRER that Aborot underwent chest x-ray and was discharged under the care of the Camiguin boxing staff after three hours.

It was the second stoppage for the power-punching 17-year-old Ubas.

"*Malakas talaga ang bata* (He's really strong)," said Rafael Miguel, his coach and municipal secretary of Montevista.

Ubas also floored Rene Lozano of Palawan with barely 11 seconds remaining in the first round last Tuesday.

But he will be tested by the wily Asenso, who ousted favorite Regie Virador of defending champion Panabo City-A, 11-8.

The women boxers also got going with the favorites, all members of the national training pool, scoring easy wins.

Puerto Princesa's Gretchen Abaniel peppered Ma. Perayjie Baya of the University of Baguio with crisp right and left combinations to lead the advance of the Nationals in the pinweight class via a referee stopped contest (outclassed) in the first round.

Abaniel, a gold medalist in the 2004 Taiwan Women's Boxing Invitational, is expected to face tough opposition from teammates Alice Cate Apari of UB and Josie Gabuco of Palawan.

Staub-Mechavez takes lead

THE PARTNERSHIP of lady golfers Tess Staub and Beth Mechavez assembled a net 51 points, 15-under par, to grab the lead halfway through the Forest Hills Invitational in Antipolo City.

The pairs of Kazuji Nagaya and Won Cheol Kim, Allan Yap and Walter Navarro, and Alther Cruz and BJ Medalla made identical 50s to remain within striking distance in the four-day event presented by Hyundai-E. Rodriguez of Wheels Distributors, Pacsports, Sun Cellular and Golforce Inc.

Junior amateur standouts Aileen Rose Yao and Katrina Gonzales joined as guest partners of members Naty Toribio and Michael Tanto. The petite Yao and Toribio made 48 points, three shots behind the leaders while Gonzales, who finished with a 4-under gross capped by 7 birdies, and Tanto likewise pooled in 48.

Sharing the spotlight heading to tomorrow's final round is Jeff Kim, who registered the first hole-in-one at the par-3, 170-yard Hole No. 4 of the Nicklaus course in the tournament which also has Turf Company and Citibank as major sponsors.

SPORTS TV

Compiled by
Lorenzo Manguiat

BASKETBALL: NBA Playoffs—Pistons vs Pacers, Game 6; 8 a.m. (r-9 p.m.); STAR Sports; Spurs vs Sonics, Game 6; 10:30 a.m. (r-9 p.m.); Solar Sports—Indiana and Seattle hope that their home fans lift them up against Detroit and San Antonio, respectively.

GOLF: LPGA Chick-Fil-A; 5 p.m. (r); ESPN—See how Annika Sorenstam obliterates the field.

Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

UST bounces back, repulses Lyceum

UNIVERSITY of Santo Tomas, wanting to redeem itself from an opening day setback to unfancied San Sebastian, beat Lyceum, 25-16, 25-19, 25-17, to get back on track in the 2005 Shakey's V-League first conference at the Lyceum gym.

Mary Jean Balse and Venus Bernal led UST's charge by combining for 25 points, 18 coming from kills, although it was the tandem of Joyce Pano and Joan Botor-Carpio who sparked the team's romp in the event sponsored by Shakey's Pizza.

The returning Pano, a member of the España-based squad that won the inaugural staging of this tournament, unleashed 10 hits, mostly coming in the first set.

On the other hand, Botor-Carpio, who led the school to three UAAP titles in the '90s, kept the Tigresses together, dishing out 25 excellent sets.

"We were probably still adjusting," said UST coach August Sta. Maria.

The loss sent Lyceum reeling to its second straight setback after losing to newcomer Ateneo last Monday.

La Salle likewise scored a straight-set win over Far Eastern U, 25-21, 25-20, 25-20, to gain a share of the lead with surprise package San Sebastian with identical 2-0 (win-loss) marks.

The Lady Tams fell to their second straight defeat in this event backed by Accel, Mikasa, IBC 13 and Jemah Television.

Bar's security chief surrenders money

Three months after the murder of 28-year-old management executive Jerson Morales, the mystery envelope surfaces.

Murder suspect and security supervisor Epifanio Apacible, 42, surrendered to members of Task Force Morales of the Makati Criminal Investigation Division an envelope containing P50,000 which he claimed to have found beside the body of Morales who was fatally shot in the Purple Pear Bar in Makati City last March 5.

Apacible (right) hands over the mystery envelope to members of Task Force Morales

Apacible was the one who discovered the body of Morales in the parking area of said bar moments after hearing two gunshots coming from outside. He said he took the envelope before calling the police to the scene, thinking that the money it contained will compensate for the pain his daughter Jenelyn has suffered. Jenelyn, 18, allegedly had an illicit relationship with the victim – who was engaged to be married to another woman – before his death. Apacible added he had intended to use the money to help ensure a future for his daughter, a nursing student who has plans of working abroad after graduation.

However, egged on by his conscience, he has resolved to turn over the unused amount to the police. When asked for his reason for returning the money he simply replied, "*Niloko kasi kami,*" (We were misled). Several witnesses upon questioning have mentioned seeing the victim with the white envelope yet its whereabouts was unknown to the police until now.

While Apacible owned up to taking the money, he denied any guilt in the killing of Morales. Both father and daughter are considered suspects to the murder but the police have not held the elder Apacible after finding out that he was still at his post at the Purple Pear at the time the killing took place.

This is an INQuest Adventure game clue

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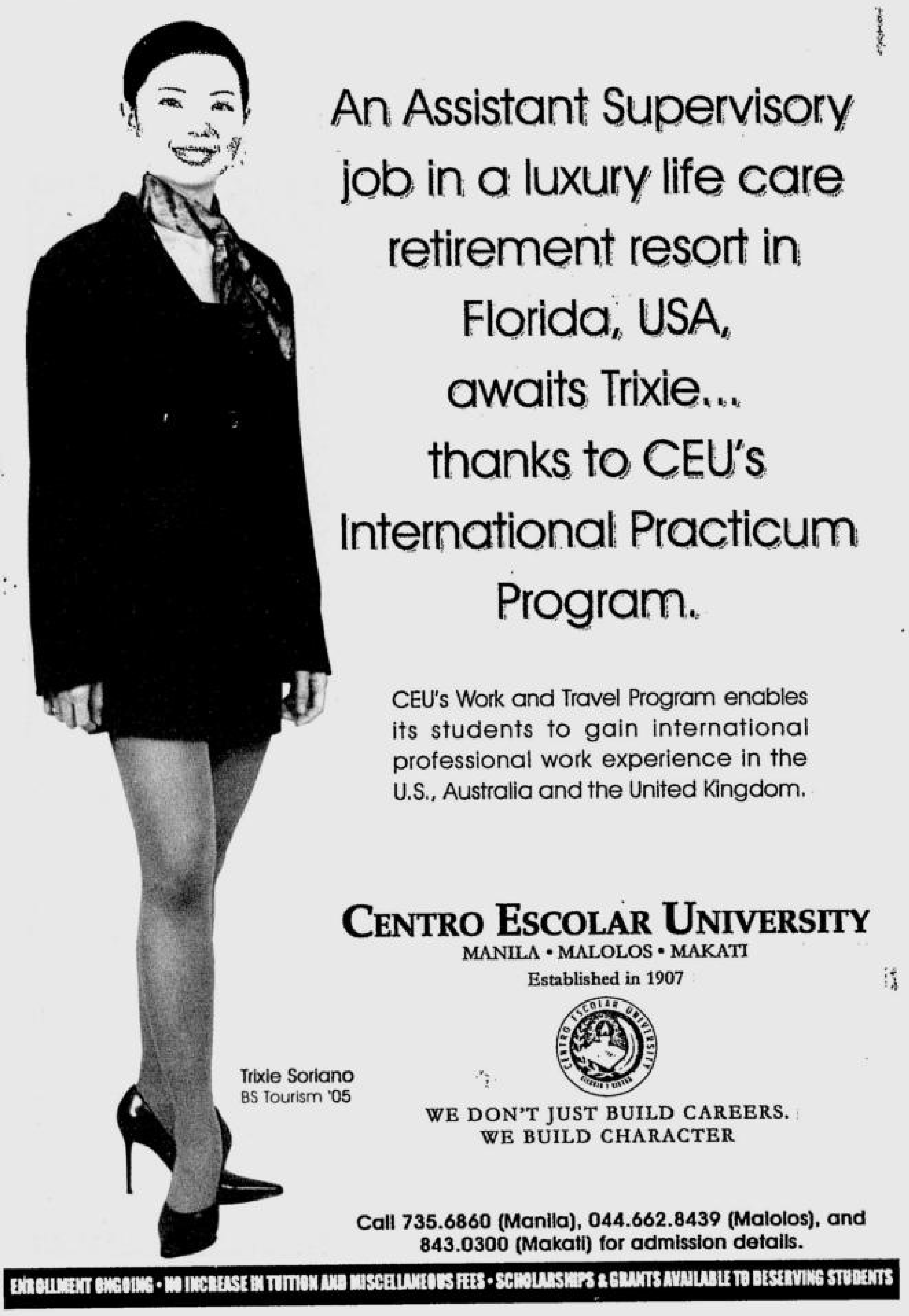
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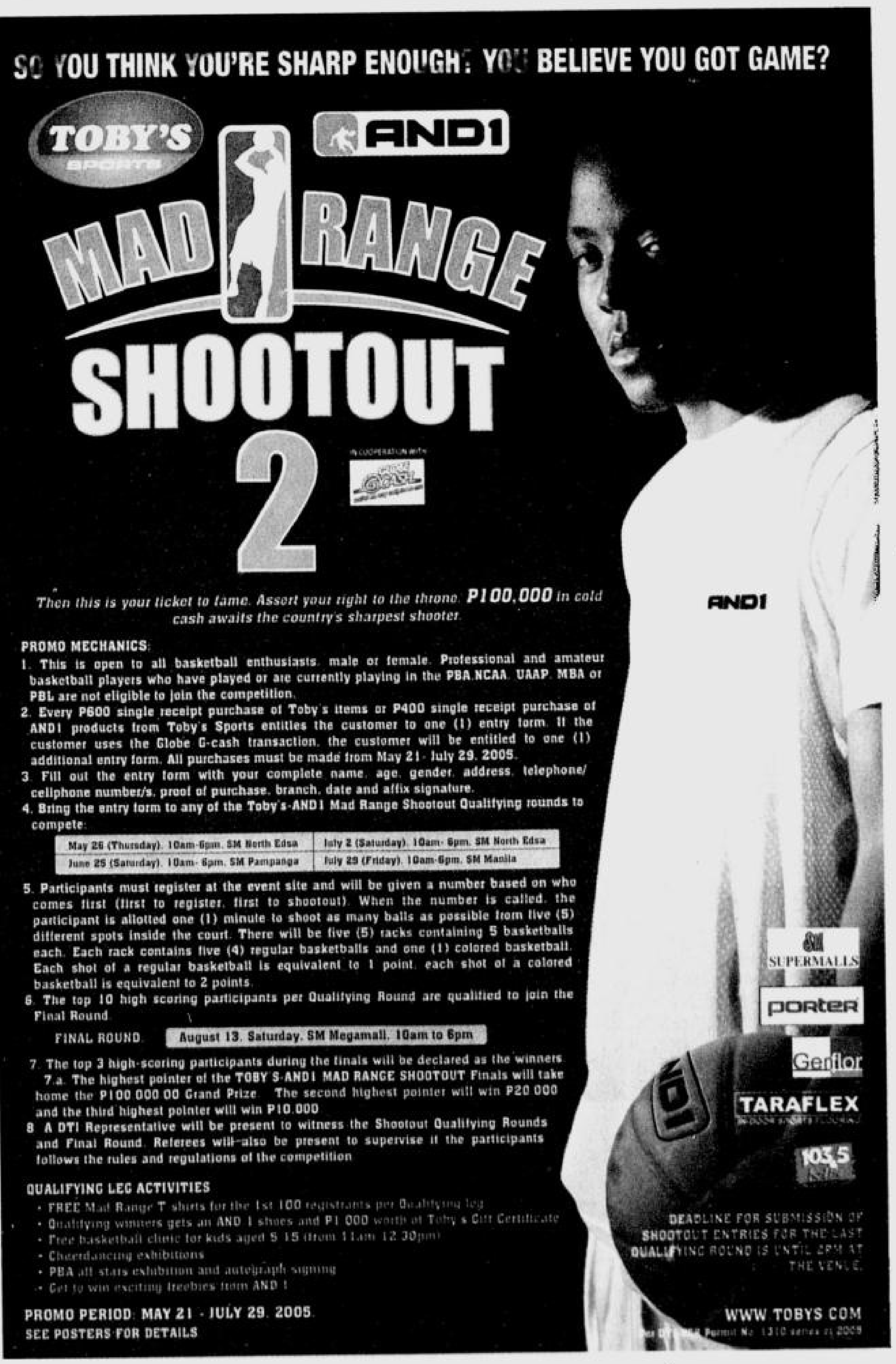
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3. Fill out the entry form with your complete name, age, gender, address, telephone/cellphone number/s, proof of purchase, branch, date and affix signature.
4. Bring the entry form to any of the Toby's-AND1 Mad Range Shootout Qualifying rounds to compete:

May 26 (Thursday), 10am-6pm, SM North Edsa	July 2 (Saturday), 10am- 6pm, SM North Edsa
June 25 (Saturday), 10am- 6pm, SM Pampanga	July 29 (Friday), 10am-6pm, SM Manila

5. Participants must register at the event site and will be given a number based on who comes first (first to register, first to shootout). When the number is called, the participant is allotted one (1) minute to shoot as many balls as possible from five (5) different spots inside the court. There will be five (5) racks containing 5 basketballs each. Each rack contains five (4) regular basketballs and one (1) colored basketball. Each shot of a regular basketball is equivalent to 1 point, each shot of a colored basketball is equivalent to 2 points.
6. The top 10 high scoring participants per Qualifying Round are qualified to join the Final Round.

FINAL ROUND: August 13, Saturday, SM Megamall, 10am to 6pm

7. The top 3 high-scoring participants during the finals will be declared as the winners.
7.a. The highest pointer of the TOBY'S-AND1 MAD RANGE SHOOTOUT Finals will take home the P100,000.00 Grand Prize. The second highest pointer will win P20,000 and the third highest pointer will win P10,000.
8. A DTI Representative will be present to witness the Shootout Qualifying Rounds and Final Round. Referees will also be present to supervise if the participants follows the rules and regulations of the competition.

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- Free basketball clinic for kids aged 5-15 (from 11am-12:30pm)
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DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF SHOOTOUT ENTRIES FOR THE LAST QUALIFYING ROUND IS UNTIL 2PM AT THE VENUE.

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1310 series of 2005

Inquirer badminton Expo gets going today

HIDAYAT

THE COUNTRY'S biggest names in sports will come together for the INQUIRER Badminton Expo today at the Megatrade Hall 2 in SM Megamall.

The three-day event will be offering price cutdowns on sports items from top distributors including Toby's, adidas, Yonex, Prince, Mizuno, Victor, Dunlop, Kason, RSL, Carlton, Gosen and Wilson.

INQUIRER president Sandy Prieto-Romualdez, a former national athlete, and board chair Marixi Prieto will lead the opening ceremonies at 10 a.m.

The Expo highlight will be the Toby's Sports Exhibition Match between 2004 Olympic gold medalist Taufik Hidayat and world No. 9 Hafiz Hashim on May 21 and 22 at 4 p.m.-6 p.m.

Hidayat, a former world number one, and Yonex All-England champion Hashim will lead members of the Philippine national team in a rare showdown.

Young shuttlecock artists will take centerstage as well in the INQUIRER Badminton Bulilit Tournament.

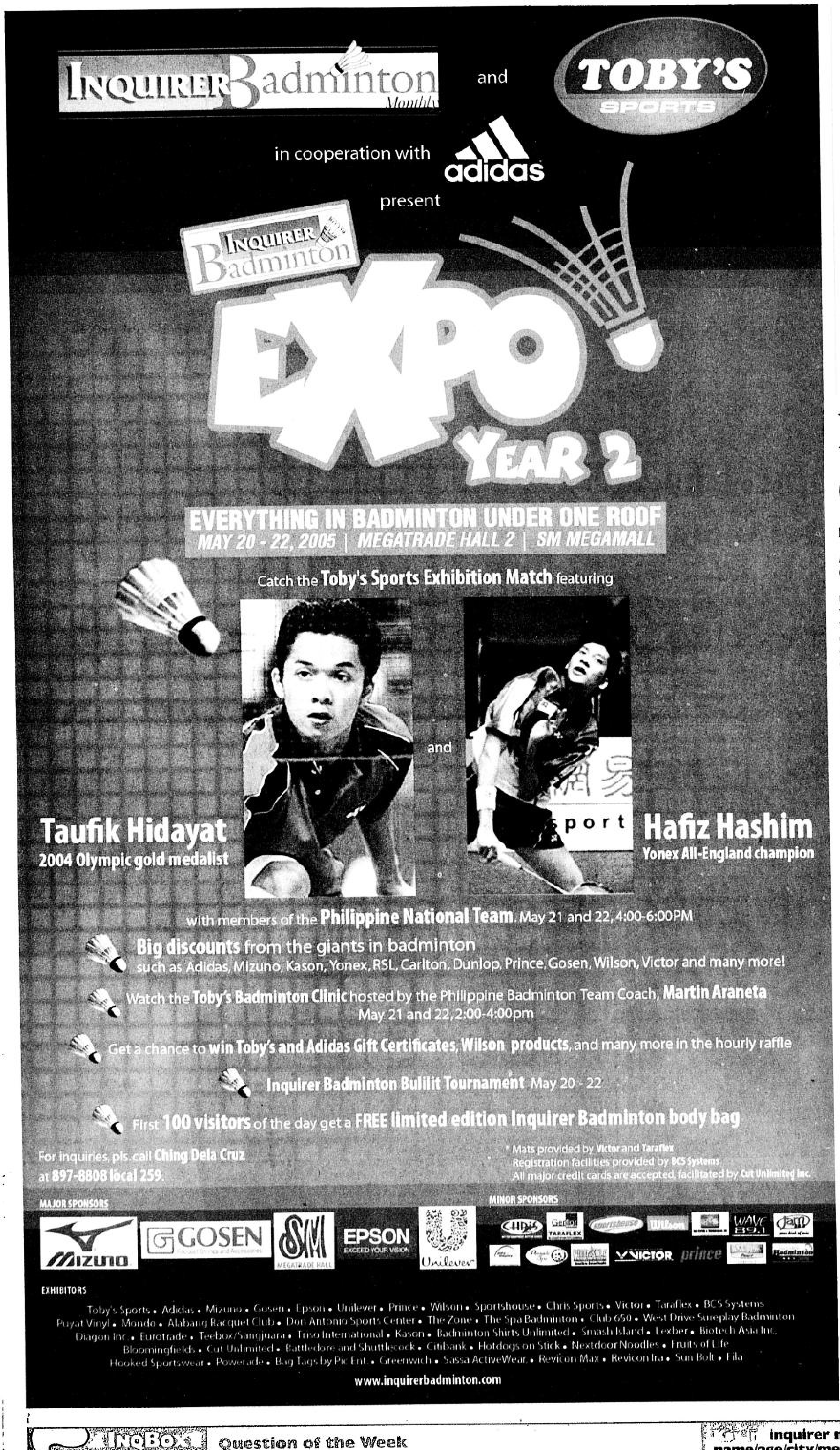
Twenty four pairs of kids aged 10 years old and below will compete in the eliminations on May 20 (1 p.m.-8 p.m.) and the final round on May 22 (10 a.m.-2 p.m.).

Martin Araneta, the Philippine badminton team coach, will also share his expertise in a badminton clinic on May 21 and 22 at 2-4 p.m.

For health and fitness concerns, trained cardiologists and orthopedic doctors will be on tap at the Toby's booth.

Also offering promotions are Unilever and Epson, Sportshouse, Chris Sports, Gerflor Taraflex, Holiday Inn, Wave 89.1 and Jam 88.3.

Prizes await the expo's first 100 visitors. Gift certificates and other premium items will also be given away in the hourly raffle. *Jasmine W. Payo*



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Taufik Hidayat
2004 Olympic gold medalist

and

Hafiz Hashim
Yonex All-England champion

with members of the **Philippine National Team**. May 21 and 22, 4:00-6:00PM

Big discounts from the giants in badminton such as Adidas, Mizuno, Kason, Yonex, RSL, Carlton, Dunlop, Prince, Gosen, Wilson, Victor and many more!

Watch the **Toby's Badminton Clinic** hosted by the Philippine Badminton Team Coach, **Martin Araneta** May 21 and 22, 2:00-4:00pm

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Denver Nugge
Chinese ca

By Francis Ochoa

AKANA: Nothin

IT WAS late in 2002. Huddled in the midst of reporters, Jong Uichico spun a dream-like yarn to those who bothered to listen.

"China can be beaten," he said then.

The words turned out to be prophetic. The national team he coached then may have fallen a Korean three-pointer short of trying to test the premise, but the Chinese, led by NBA star Yao Ming, did fall to the hosts in the basketball finals of the Asian Games in Busan, South Korea.

Three years later, amidst frenzied preparation for another shot at the Great Wall, somebody else is peddling the same story.

"Beating China is not impossible," said Jarrin Akana.

He should know. To hardcore basketball buffs, Akana may be known as the assistant coach of the Denver Nuggets. But a closer look at his resumé shows that the 34-year-old mentor also served as the assistant coach to the Chinese national team that competed in the 2002 Worlds in Indianapolis.

Akana is here to highlight Nike's summer league. Today, Akana will stage a one-day clinic from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

His declaration doesn't come just from his familiarity with China's game. It also comes from being right there in Indianapolis, where t
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By Marc Anthony Reyes

AN ALL-FILIPINO national coaching roster?

It's not a bad idea according to the Philippine Sports Commission, which yesterday announced it would eventually stop hiring foreign coaches and focus its resources on educating the home-grown coaches in its roster.

Officer-in-charge Butch Ramirez said the PSC has already opened opportunities for the country's coaches to learn new technologies abroad instead of bringing foreigners over and paying

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CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

PHILIPPINE basketball is not what it used to be. In the good old days, Filipino cage fans were always assured of total commitment from the national players, but today this love for country has been sadly missed.

"It's a pity to see that most of our national players are not giving their best when they play in an international tournament," said an old-timer recently. "I think they're afraid of hurting themselves and risking a possible career in the Philippine Basketball Association. This is also true with those PBA players who are already in the national team: They don't want to get hurt and risk their PBA career."

The PBA, Asia's first professional basketball league, was organized way back in 1975 by officials of the Manila Industrial Commercial Athletic Association (Micaa) after a falling out with their counterparts in the Basketball Association of the Philippines. Many seasoned internationalists, led by former Olympic and Asian Games players, turned pro, leaving the country with only a limited field of inexperienced amateur players for its international commitments.

During the 1978 World Basketball Championship held here, the Philippines competed for the first time in a major international meet without its best players because its best bets had joined the PBA.

Instead, the Philippines fielded a team composed mostly of fresh graduates.

The coach of the team was 36-year-old Nic Jorge Jr., a former star player of the University of the Philippines' Maroons. His assistants were battle-tested Pacifico "Skip" Agcaoili and youthful Nemie Villegas.

Agcaoili, a veteran of the local basketball scene for more than three decades, was designated the defensive coach while Villegas, then of Letran College, was named the offensive coach.

"Jorge was chosen team coach because he has shown the ability to lead, discipline and produce winning teams," said Gonzalo "Lito" Puyat, then president of both the BAP and Fiba (International Basketball Federation). He added that Jorge's impressive performances

INQBOX

Question of the Week

More than 90 journalists have been killed in the Philippines since 1986. The Committee to Protect Journalists has identified the Philippines as "the most murderous country for journalists," followed by Iraq, Colombia, Bangladesh and Russia. What should be done to stop the killings?

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China]. But I think a special coach [can]. And you know, maybe Chot can be the guy.

"Who knows, the Philippines could beat [China]. It might not be this year. It might be two years, five years. But you have to keep that hope alive. If you don't, you're never going to do it."

Hope alone's not going to fare well against a team that can easily field two seven-footers on the floor at the same time. The US team in Athens did not even have two seven-footers on the whole team.

"You have to play to your strengths," said Akana. "You have to figure out what is the best thing my team does. If you can shoot better than them, make it a shooting contest. If you're faster than them, make it a running contest."

Every now and then, Akana would slip a few technical pointers, like using the wider shaded area in the international game to one's advantage (A step or two away from the basket makes that hook shot a lower percentage shot, he says).

But he always ends up with a familiar advice.

"Here's something I always teach kids at clinics: Michael Jordan is not Michael Jordan because he just woke up one day and decided 'I wanna play basketball,'" Akana lectured. "To be that good, you have to practice."

Nash shows MVP form, lifts Suns

PHOENIX—Steve Nash added the most impressive night yet to his marvelous most valuable player season, leading the Phoenix Suns within one victory of the Western Conference finals.

Nash had 34 points, 13 rebounds and 12 assists—his third career triple-double and first in the playoffs—and the Suns turned on the jets in a fourth-quarter outburst to beat the Dallas Mavericks 114-108 on Wednesday.

The top-seeded Suns also had huge contributions from Amare Stoudemire and Jimmy Jackson as they moved within one win of their first trip to the conference finals in 12 years.

"That's all that counts," Nash said of the victory.

"He's a tough little player," said Nash's close friend, Dallas' Dirk Nowitzki, "we all know that."

Phoenix took a 3-2 lead in the best-of-seven conference semifinal series, with Game 6 on Friday in Dallas. Historically, when it's a 2-2 tie, the victor in Game 5 has gone on to win the series 84 percent of the time.

"Nash played like an MVP tonight. We had no answers for him," Dallas coach Avery Johnson said. "We tried everything humanly possible."

"Game 5 is obviously very important. It would have been devastating to lose at home and then have to go there," said Nash, who made 13-of-26 shots, most of them mid-range jumpers in pick-and-roll situations.

Jackson, the 13-year NBA veteran, moved into the starting lineup for the injured Joe Johnson, making seven of eight shots in the fourth quarter for 15 of his 21 points. Stoudemire rebounded from his 15-point performance in Game 4 with 33 points and a career-playoff high 18 rebounds—21 points and 12 rebounds in the second half. Shawn Marion added 16 points and 10 rebounds for the Suns.

Nowitzki had 34 points and 10 rebounds for the Mavericks, who led 55-48 at the half. Jerry Stackhouse scored 29 points off the bench. Josh Howard added 19 points and 10 rebounds, and Jason Terry had 17 points.

But no one on the Mavericks could match the energy and effectiveness of Nash, who came off a 48-point, but losing, effort in Game 4. This time, he scored, and did a lot of everything else, too.

Nash had 22 points in the second half, many over and around towering would-be defenders inside the lane, and reached a triple-double with 6 1/2 minutes left in the third quarter.

"We can accept Amare getting points in the paint," Stackhouse said. "But Nash getting points in the paint is unacceptable."

The Suns outscored the Mavericks 66-30 in the paint and threw in 16 fastbreak points.

"We did not follow the game plan tonight, and they shredded us, shredded us to pieces," Avery Johnson said.

"I'm very disappointed with this loss," he added. "They out-played us. They out-everythinged us."

AP, AFP

PHOENIX Suns guard Steve Nash, the reigning NBA Most Valuable Player, flies to the hoop past Dallas Mavericks' Michael Finley. Nash, who had his first career playoff triple-double to power the Suns to within one game of the Western Conference finals, was named to the NBA First Team along with San Antonio's Tim Duncan, Dallas' Dirk Nowitzki, Miami's Shaquille O' Neal and Philadelphia's Allen Iverson. REUTERS

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the SEA Games.

"But the PSC board has decided to invest more on Filipino coaches," said Ramirez.

The PSC takes care of 342 local coaches working for at least 38 national sports associations.

But the PSC is making an exception in boxing coach Raul Fernandez Liranza of Cuba, who is set to handle the national boxers from the 2005 SEAG up to the 2008 Olympics.

Liranza is credited for helping Onyok Velasco win the light flyweight silver in the 1996 Atlanta Olympics.

lgia

in leagues and tournaments conducted and sanctioned by the BAP were the best proof of his talents.

Jorge began his coaching career at age 24, barely a year after he completed his varsity days at the UP. As a coach, he mentored a badly crippled San Miguel Corp. team to third place in a Micaa tournament.

or the 1978 WBC, 30 players were initially picked to ndergo tryouts.

he list was pruned down to 15, with three being later named as alternates. The team had an average height f six feet and two inches, one of the tallest RP teams ver formed for an international meet.

till, Jorge was wary.

aid he: "Our chances of winning the championship re practically nil, but we hope to pull some upsets."

Host Philippines placed eighth, with Yugoslavia merging champion in the 1978 world cagefest—MRJ.)

lthough strong in defense, the team was weak in offense. The shooters on the squad were Steve Watson, 20, member of the 1977 RP youth team; 23-year-old Federico Lauchengo from Navotas; Ramon Cruz, 22, the eam's shooting guard; and 21-year-old Alex Clariño, a ive-time member of the Philippine team to various sian meets. Manning the slots were 23-year-old eopoldo Herrera from Nueva Ecija; Bernardo Carpio, 0, a veteran of five Asian tournaments; and 22-year-old athaniel Castillo. Rounding up the team were Cesar abut, 24; Eduardo Merced, also 24; and 23-year-old olando Pineda, Micaa's Most Valuable Player in 1977.

he Philippines' best finish in the World Basketball hampionship was third in 1954 in Rio de Janeiro.

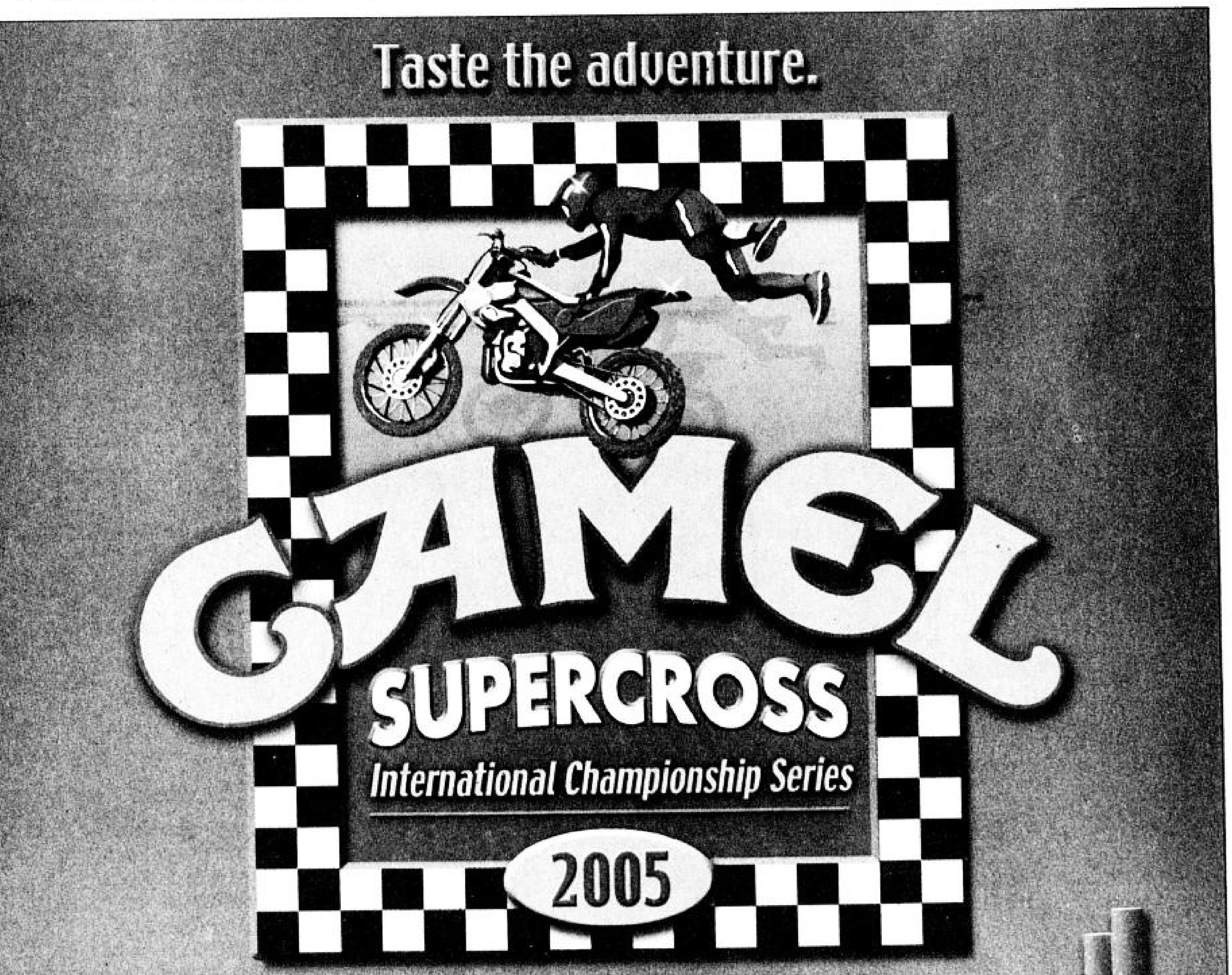
***

RIPLE CROWN ON SUNDAY. A battle royale looms etween hot favorite Real Spicy and arch rival Speed dvantage in this Sunday's P1.1 million Cojuangco up, first leg of the Triple Crown series. But Real Spicy, ased on his past record, is picked to win the 1,600-meter race for 3-year-old horses.

wned by Bulacan sportsman-businessman Hermie sguerra, Real Spicy (Real Quiet out of Spicy Tale) won ack-to-back races in his latest outings—both 1,600-meter events—at the San Lazaro Leisure Park in Carmona where he nosed out Speed Advantage on April 3 nd at the Santa Ana Park one week later, where he outed the field by some eight lengths.

I hope we'll get lucky this year," said a beaming Esguerra recently. "I have yet to win the Triple Crown."

I think Mr. Esguerra will play another major rule in the ndustry again," said Philracom chair Jaime Dilag, dding Esguerra has a big chance of winning this year's riple Crown series.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G1 GLORIETTA 1	STAR WARS EP. 3	STAR WARS EP. 3	STAR WARS EP. 3	BIKINI OPEN			
G4 GLORIETTA 4	STAR WARS EP. 3	STAR WARS EP. 3	THX STAR WARS EP. 3 12:10, 3:00, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	KINGDOM OF HEAVEN	STAR WARS EP. 3	STAR WARS EP. 3	STAR WARS EP. 3
GB1 GREENBELT 1	STAR WARS EP. 3 12:30, 3:20, 6:10, 8:15	STAR WARS EP. 3 1:15, 4:05, 6:55,9:00					
GB3 GREENBELT 3	THX STAR WARS EP. 3 2:40, 5:30, 8:20, 11:10 GUARANTEED SEATS	THX STAR WARS EP. 3 2:10, 5:00, 7:50,10:40 GUARANTEED SEATS	STAR WARS EP. 3 1:40, 10:10 GUARANTEED SEATS	STAR WARS EP. 3 12:15, 3:05 5:55, 8:45, 11:35 GUARANTEED SEATS	STAR WARS EP. 3 12:40, 3:30, 6:20, 9:10, 12:00 GUARANTEED SEATS		
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1 STAR WARS Episode III • THX 11:10 2:40 5:30 8:20 10:50	6 STAR WARS Episode III 1:00 3:50 6:40 9:30
2 STAR WARS Episode III 10:40 1:30 4:20 7:10 10:00	7 AMITYVILLE HORROR 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00
3 HEAD IN THE CLOUDS 1:35 4:25 7:15 10:00	8 IN GOOD COMPANY 12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00
4 BIKINI OPEN 12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00	9 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN 12:30 3:40 6:50 10:00
5 STAR WARS Episode III 12:30 3:20 6:10 9:00	10 XXX 2 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

1 STAR WARS Episode III	
2 AMITYVILLE HORROR 11:00 1:10 3.20 5:30 7:40 9:50	5 STAR WARS Episode III
3 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN 10:30 1:20 4:10 7:00 9:50	6 BIKINI OPEN 10:30 12:50 3:05 5:20 7:35 9:50
4 IN GOOD COMPANY 10.30 12:45 3.00 5:15 7:30 9:50	7 STAR WARS Episode III

METRO EAST 682-8193 • 682-8199

1 AMITYVILLE HORROR 11:30 1:45 4.30 6:45 9:10	5 STAR WARS Episode III
2 HEAD IN THE CLOUDS 11:20 1:40 4.00 6:30 9:00	6 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN 11:40 2:40 5:40 9:00
3 IN GOOD COMPANY	7 BIKINI OPEN 10:25 1:05 3:45 6:25 9:05
4 STAR WARS Episode III	8 STAR WARS Episode III

NOVALICHES 935-3229/31

1 STAR WARS Episode III	5 BIKINI OPEN 11:50 2:10 4:30 6:50 9:00
2 XXX 2 12:00 1:55 4:05 6:15 8:30	6 STAR WARS Episode III
3 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN 11:20 2:20 5:20 8:25	7 RESERVE
4 AMITYVILLE HORROR 11:00 1:20 3:40 6:00 8:25	8 RESERVE

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1 STAR WARS Episode III	3 AMITYVILLE HORROR
2 BIKINI OPEN	4 STAR WARS Episode III

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3 BIKINI OPEN	3 THE INTERPRETER
4 THE INTERPRETER	4 BIKINI OPEN
5 STAR WARS Episode III	5 STAR WARS Episode III

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3 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN	3 THE INTERPRETER
4 BIKINI OPEN	4 STAR WARS Episode III
5 STAR WARS Episode III	

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2 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN	2 SIX
3 BIKINI OPEN	3 BIKINI OPEN
4 STAR WARS Episode III	4 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
5 HEAD IN THE CLOUDS	5 STAR WARS Episode III
6 IN GOOD COMPANY	6 STAR WARS Episode III

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1 STAR WARS Episode III	1 STAR WARS Episode III
2 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN	2 THE INTERPRETER
3 STAR WARS Episode III	3 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
4 SAHARA	4 STAR WARS Episode III
5 THE WEDDING DATE	5 SAHARA
6 THE INTERPRETER	6 THE WEDDING DATE

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Laurente captures Paba title

FILIPINO Pedirito Laurente of the Johnny Elorde Stable stopped Chinese Xi Mu Xiang in the third round of a scheduled 12-rounder and claimed the Pan-Asian Boxing Association interim super bantamweight title last May 17 in Guangzhou, China.

With the win, the 24-year-old Laurente from Iloilo City gained a chance to vie for the regular title against Paba 122-pound champ Somsak Sithchachawan of Thailand this year.

Laurente held the Oriental-Pacific Boxing Federation super bantam title before losing it to Cebuano Jimrex Jaca.

In the co-feature, Paba No. 10 Xu Chong Liang (3-0,1 KO) became the first Chinese to win an international title after a seventh-round TKO win over WBA No. 10 and defending Paba 130-lb champion Pongsith Wiengwiset (14-2,6 KOs). *Salven Lagumbay, contributor*

Sphere gym of booters

THE SPHERE Gym at the Festival Mall in Muntinlupa is the official gym of the National women's football team that is going to represent the country in the SEA Games this November.

The Philippine Football Federation said 28 candidates under head coach Marlon Maro work out thrice a week under the expert guidance of the gym's trainers.

Dors Rivilla, Sphere Gym owner, said the training program for the women booters include workouts for speed, agility and quickness using the latest techniques in plyometrics and aerobic/anaerobic and vertimax exercises; football specific strength programs using the latest Hammer Strength Machines and free weights; injury prevention and rehabilitation therapy; monitoring of body weight/body fat and supplementation level (skin carotid test).

Rivilla added that Sphere Gym will also provide a trainer to accompany the team in all its international matches.

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Race 2–1. Letshaveaparty 2. Korek Ka Dyan 3. Gentleman's Lady 4. El Cid
Race 3–1. Angie Gray/Run Like D Wind 2. Jedi 3. Itz Me Dahlin 4. Showtime Lady
Race 5–1. Long Hiter 2. My Sheikh 3. Extreme Illusion
Race 6–1. Little Sam 2. Bom's Bom's 3. Fancy Dancer 4. Millennium Man
Race 7–1. Money Maker 2. Golden Africa 3. All Class 4. Magnanimous
Race 8–1. Friendly Lover 2. Noble Principality 3. Good Day 4. Chances Are
Race 9–1. Hello Happy 2. Pay to See 3. Heart of Jonna 4. Tervalac 5. White Princess 6. Top Quest

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2 STARWARS: EPISODE-3
3 AMITYVILLE HORROR

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2 RESERVED
3 BIKINI OPEN
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) STARWARS: EPISODE-3
5 STARWARS: EPISODE-3

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(Alabang) tel 850.4285
1 AMITYVILLE HORROR
2 BIKINI OPEN
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED
5 (DOLBY) STARWARS: EPISODE-3
6 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

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4 GOLD (DTS) STARWARS: EPISODE-3
5 GOLD (DOLBY) KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
6 GOLD (SDDS) STARWARS: EPISODE-3
7 GOLD (DOLBY) AMITYVILLE HORROR
8 CAN THIS BE LOVE
9 BIKINI OPEN
10 XXXX-2 THE NEXT LEVEL

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3 DTS EX STARWARS: EPISODE-3
4 THE INTERPRETER

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2 BIKINI OPEN
3 (DOLBY) STARWARS: EPISODE-3
4 (DTS) THE INTERPRETER

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2 XXX-2 THE NEXT LEVEL
3 (DOLBY) ALONE IN THE DARK
4 (DTS) FINDING NEVERLAND

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2 WEDDING DATE
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4 (DTS) THE JACKET

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2 SILANG MGA RAMPADORA
3 GALING GALING MO BABES
4 (DTS) SAHARA

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3 (DTS) GUESS WHO
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2 BIKINI OPEN
3 THE INTERPRETER
4 STARWARS: EPISODE-3

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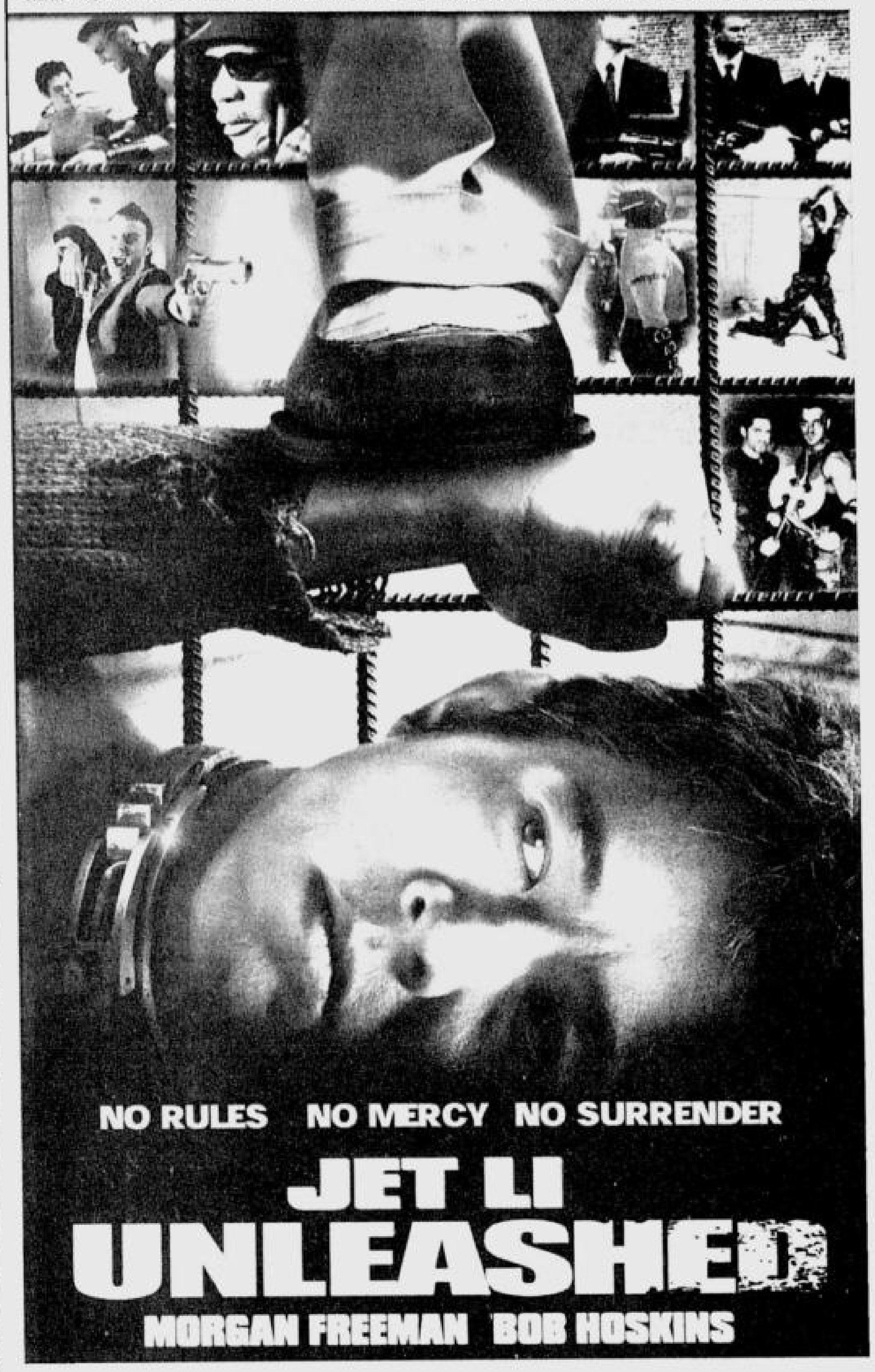

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BIKINI OPEN
12:30 / 2:40 / 4:50 / 7:00 / 9:10
IN GOOD COMPANY
12:20 / 3:05 / 5:50 / 8:35
STAR WARS - EPISODE III
11:50 / 2:50 / 5:50 / 8:50
12:55 / 3:50 / 6:45 / 9:40
12:30 / 3:30 / 6:30 / 9:30
XXX 2: THE NEXT LEVEL
1:30 / 4:00 / 6:30 / 9:00
GUESS WHO
1:00 / 3:30 / 6:00 / 8:30
AMITYVILLE HORROR
12:50 / 3:00 / 5:10 / 7:20 / 9:30
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STAR WARS - EPISODE III
1:10 / 4:10 / 7:10 / 10:10

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❶ STAR WARS - EPISODE III
11:55 / 2:50 / 5:45 / 8:40
❷ KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
11:00 / 2:00 / 5:00 / 8:00
❸ AMITYVILLE HORROR
11:40 / 1:50 / 4:00 / 6:10 / 8:20
❹ CAN THIS BE LOVE
1:00 / 3:20 / 5:40 / 8:00
❺ BIKINI OPEN
11:25 / 1:35 / 3:45 / 5:55 / 8:05
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ARANETA COLISEUM EVENTS
CARTER FASHION SHOW *May 21, Sat., 8pm*
Paolo Bediones / Maureen Larrazabal
2005 PBA FIESTA CONFERENCE *May 22*
4:15pm Fedex vs .Coca Cola / 6:35pm Purefoods vs Sta Lucia
2005 PBA FIESTA CONFERENCE *May 25*
4:45pm Ginebra vs Fedex / 7:35pm Red Bull vs San Miguel
ASHANTI LIVE IN MANILA
May 26, Thursday, 8pm

CENTER EVENTS
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SPORTS

CUBAN boxing coach Honorato Espinosa upon arrival at the Naia yesterday. He'll be supervising the training of Filipino boxers being supported by the Governors League of the Philippines. RUDY ESPERAS

Jewels down Port Masters, reach semis

Games Tomorrow
(JCSGO Gym, 15th Ave., Cubao)
2 p.m.—Nenaco-SBC vs Welcoat Paints
4 p.m.—Magnolia Ice Cream vs Toyota Otis

REED Juntilla exploded in the fourth period and Montaña Pawnshop held off Harbour Centre, 73-63, yesterday to claim the first outright semifinal berth in the PBL Unity Cup at the La Salle Greenhills Gym.

Juntilla, a prized find from Cebu, scored 10 straight points in the final period to bail out the Jewels, who survived a Harbour Centre rally down the stretch.

The Jewels, who are gunning for their second straight crown after their breakthrough title conquest in the Open Championship last February, topped the elims with a 9-2 card and secured an automatic slot in the Final Four.

The Port Masters finished with an 8-3 card after absorbing their second loss to the Jewels in the tournament although they can clinch the second semis berth if Welcoat (7-3) loses to Negros Navigation-San Beda on Tuesday.

A win gives Welcoat a playoff with Harbour Centre for the No. 2 slot Saturday.

Granny Goose outclassed Bacchus Energy Drink, 88-62, in the first game.

The scores:

First Game

GRANNY GOOSE 88—Grijaldo 14, Guerrero 12, Manalo 11, Saladagan 9, Quinahan 8, Lanete 8, Almeda 6, David 6, Santos 5, Cruz 4, Iatonio 3, Mercado 2, Concha 0, Ferrer 0, Alfad 0.

BACCHUS 62—Holper 16, Cordero 13, Hubalde 11, Nailon 9, Vizcarra 7, Menor 6, Epondulan 0, Te 0, Uy 0, Coyukang 0.

Quarters: 18-21, 31-33, 64-42, 88-62.

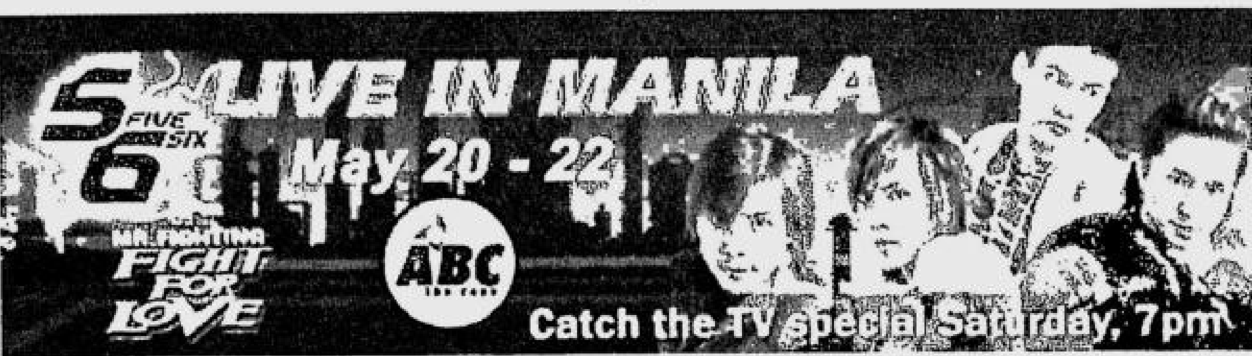
Second Game

MONTAÑA 73—Salvador 12, dela Cuesta 11, Juntilla 10, Compton 10, Guerrero 8, Espiritu 6, Capus 4, Vergara 4, Mercado 4, Bagulon 4.

HARBOUR CENTRE 63—Cardona 21, Mesina 10, Espinas 7, Membrere 7, Gaco 6, Mendoza 5, Tenorio 5, Sanz 2, Bugia 0, Gatumbato 0, Dizon 0, Castro 0, Buenafe 0, Tiongson 0.

Quarters: 22-8, 40-26, 55-51, 73-63

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
TV GUIDE
Friday May 20 2005



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May 20 - 22
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Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABS-CBN 2	Kapamilya Cinema				Showbiz No. 1 (4.25 PM)	Yu-Gi-Oh! (5:10 PM)	Naruto (5.35 PM)	Vidjoking	Opids	TV Patrol World		Mga Anghel Na Walang Langit	Hiram	Memories Of Bali	Stained Glass	Kamao			Insider
ABC 5			Problema Nyo, Sagot Ko	EZ Shop	PBA				Sentro	PBA					Big News	TNA Impact		Billboard On-Air	
GMA 7	Saang Sulok Ng Langit	Now and Forever	Glass Shoes	One Piece	Knockout	Sorcerer Orphen	Sweet Eighteen	24 Oras		Extra Challenge		Darna	Encantadia (8.45 PM)	All About Eve (9:15 PM)		Bubble Gang			Saksi
RPN 9		Metro TV Shopping	Defenders Of The Earth	Hey Arnold!	As Told By Ginger	Wild Thornberries	Sponge Bob		Tough Enough	7 Days		Temptation Island 3		The OC		Newswatch Now	TV Greats On Friday		
IBC 13		Lifestyle		EZ Shop		Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	Lifestyle		Home Shopping Network		Asian X-Tour			TM Regional		IBC News Tonite	Pulis Na Palaban	GMA The Working Pres
JackTV	The Sib Show	Samurai Jack	The Batman	WWE Smackdown				Sweat	Just For Laughs	Mad TV		Joe Schmo Show		Jack In The Box				Worst Case Scenario	
Nickelodeon	Blues Clues	Rugrats	The Fairly Odd Parents	SpongeBob SquarePants	All That	Are You Afraid of the Dark?	100 Deeds of Eddie McDowd	The Amanda Show	The Adventures Jimmy Neutron	Fairly Odd Parents	SpongeBob SquarePants	As Told By Ginger	Yakkity Yak	Chalkzone	Rocket Power	Hey Arnold!	The Wild Thornberrys	The Angry Beavers	Rugrats
MYX		Urban MYX		Pop MYX	OPM MYX	Take 5	My MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		Mellow MYX	Rock MYX	Pop MYX	Urban MYX	Star MYX	Club MYX	My MYX	MYX Backtrax	OPM MYX	Mellow MYX
ETC		Simple Life	Knock First	Blind Date	Fifth Wheel	Elimidate	Change of Heart	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	Arrested Development	Significant Others	Joan Of Arcadia		Average Joe		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
Cinema One		Cuadro De Jack				La Vida Rosa				Black Mask 2				Dilinger ng Dose Pares				Xerex	
Studio 23		Urban MYX	Rock MYX	Pop MYX	OPM MYX	Jimmy Neutron, Boy Genius	Xiaolin Showdown	Teen Titans	Justice League	Wazzup Wazzup		Barkada Nights		Playing It Straight		News Central	Oprah		Yes Dear
AXN		The Contender		David Blaine Magic Man		Gensomaden Saiyuki	Gensomaden Saiyuki	Pensacola (Season III)		Alias (Season II)		WRC 2005: Rally XS Cyprus	E Buzz	Andromeda (Season IV)		Joan Of Arc			
Star World		The Bold & The Beautiful		Hollywood Squares	Home Improvement	Buffy The Vampire Slayer		The Simpsons	The Drew Carey Show	Star News Asia	Friends	TNA Wrestling		Totally Outrageous Behavior Caught On Tape	Weird TV	Police Stop		Friends	Totally Outrageous Behavior Caught On Tape
CNN				Business International		Larry King Live		World News	World Sport	Business International		World News Asia		World News	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	World Sport
National Geographic		The Last Voices From Heaven				Tribal Voice		Egypt Detectives	Africa From The Ground Up	Wow		About Asia		Nat'l Geographic Specials		Capturing The Killer Croc		Ultimate Crocodile	
Solar Sports					In This Corner		ATP World Team C'ship '05						NBA TV Daily	NBA Playoffs Conf. Sfinals Game6					GWS Ep.20-2005
Lifestyle Network	Country Style	Interiors By Design	Decorating With Style	Decorating Cents	Molto Mario	Sweet Dreams	30 Minute Meals	Bill Boggs Corner	Unwrapped	Ming's Quest	Revealed With Jules Asner		It's Good To Be	Life & Style		Guess Who's Coming To Decorate		50 Most Outrageous TV Moments	
HBO	Street Hunter (2:40 PM)			Superbabies: Baby Geniuses 2 (4.15 PM)				The Glimmer Man (5.50 PM)			Tommy Boy (7.25 PM)			Anaconda			The Lord Of The Rings: The Two Towers		
Star Movies			Darkman (3.45 PM)				That Thing You Do!			K-9 (7:15PM)				X2: X-Men United				Bulletproof Monk (11.15PM)	
Cartoon Network	Scooby-Doo Show	The All New Popeye Show		Tom & Jerry Show	The Woody Woodpecker Show	Ed, Edd N Eddy	Mucha Lucha!	Premiere	Toon Pick	Gundam Wing	Shaman King	Looney Tunes Show		The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy	Courage The Cowardly Dog	Time Squad	Thundercats	He-Man & The Masters Of The Universe	Gundam Seed
ESPN		2005 WPBA Carolina Classic		Asian X Games VI Presented by Toyota		LPGA Golf Chick-Fil-A Charity C'ship by N. Lopez				Pool/Snooker World Pool League '04 Poland		Sportscenter Asia	World Snooker Tour The Masters '05						Sportscenter Asia
Disney Channel	Mr Bean: The Animated Series	Totally Spies	The Sleepover Club	Art Attack/Un-talkative Bunny	Buzz Lightyear Star Command	Martin Mystery	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr Bean: The Animated Series	House Of Mouse	Wonderful World Of Disney			My Wife And Kids	That's So Raven	America's Funniest Home Video	According To Jim	Wonderful World Of Disney	
Cinemax	Frankenstein Must Be Destroyed				Free Willy 3 The Rescue			Alien Hunter			Rabbit-Proof Fence			Landslide			Snakehead Terror		
Hallmark Channel	Who's The Boss	Sue Thomas: F.B.Eye		HCA: The Fairytaler	Sesame Street		Mad About You	Who's The Boss	Bewitched	Hustle		Sue Thomas: F.B.Eye		Scar Tissue			Wife Swap (10.35PM)		Hustle (11.25PM)
Discovery Channel		Power Zone				Wild Discovery		Ultimate Discovery		Monster Garage		American Chopper		Wild Science		Ultimate Discovery		Crime Night	
Sports Plus	Eds Byron Nelson C'ship Day4						TV Shopping	Italia Serie A				Get A Grip	Monster Jam	FMX		Inside the PGA	EDS Byron Nelson Classic Highlights		Bank of America Colonial Day1

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Editor Emmie G. Velarde

Love na love mo bang magluto?
STANDARD
Gas Stove

Abaya film screens in Cannes today

WHEN a Filipino goes to the movies," leading Philippine film director Marilou Diaz Abaya says, "he wants to be healed."

Abaya will learn today if this notion is universal as she makes her debut at the Cannes Film Festival.

Abaya's non-competition entry, "Bagong Buwan" (Crescent Moon), is one of four Filipino films to be shown at the Tous les Cinemas du Monde (Cinemas of the World) section of the French fest. The three others are "Dekada '70" by Chito Rono, "Milan" by Olivia Lamasan and "Panaghoy sa Suba" by Cesar Montano.

"Bagong Buwan" is a politically tinged drama set in Mindanao, mired in decades of Muslim separatist rebellion.

"Cinema is only one of the many, many tools in the vocabulary of peace," Abaya, 49, tells Agence France-Presse.

"I think filmmakers ought to use it more for peace," she says. "I prefer it to a military instrument for political change."

As for the Filipino filmgoer, she notes, "You can make him laugh, you can make him cry, but I think that for P90-P110 (price of a movie ticket) he'd like to feel a little better about himself, a little bit more hopeful."

Abaya's career flourished amid a general decline of the Filipino film industry, once one of the largest in the world outside of Hollywood.

"I'm not surprised that we've been producing fewer films, but we're also producing better films," she insists.

Of the 53 films produced in the Philippines last year, "I'm willing to stake my reputation that more than half have raised the level, on both creative and technical merits," she says. "We are now at the very least a regional product ... a very good regional product."

Abaya urges Filipino producers to "take risks" by investing in films designed for the foreign markets.

AFP

MARILOU Diaz Abaya and Cesar Montano both have films screening in the French film festival.

WHAT'S INSIDE

■ 'Sin City's' sinfully lovely girls /A3-1

■ Film, fashion, fabulous! /A3-4

IZA CALZADO 'MADE UNDER'
Iza Calzado's long locks get a break, loosened into easy braids, for a "make under" in this month's Seventeen magazine. Three other young stars get the spotlight in the feature—Anne Curtis, Danica Sotto and Chesca Garcia.

Grand entrance for Baby Antonia

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

AFTER taking time off to deliver baby **Antonia** and caring for her for some months, **Tintin Bersola** is back on Channel 2's early morning show, "Magandang Umaga, Bayan," which she co-hosts with hubby **Julius Babao**. Tintin's fans are happy to see her back and looking so good.

And they were delighted one day last week when Tintin brought little Antonia to the set, where the cute tot behaved as nicely and professionally as could be. Well, with parents like Julius and Tintin, we expected nothing less.

Is there a show biz career in little Antonia's future? Sure seems like it. This early, mom Tintin reveals that an endorsement deal is in the works for Antonia, so it looks like this is one kid who won't have to ask her folks for an allowance.

Before that, however, Antonia has her first big public event to "star" in: her baptism on May 21, 11 a.m., at Fernwood Gardens, with some 50 celebrity godparents in beaming attendance. You can't beat a "grand entrance" like that!

'Opening Night'

STAR Movies' new feature, "Opening Night," offers viewers a first look at exclusive scenes from the latest blockbuster films. At 8:30 p.m. on Sunday, May 22, the featured movie is "Madagascar," the latest treat from the creators of "Shrek" and "Shark's Tale." Host **Terence Yu** screens footage from the animated feature film about four zoo animals who head for the wilds. The lead animals are voiced by **Ben Stiller, Chris Rock, David Schwimmer** and **Jada Pinkett Smith**.

More than a teen flick

"CAN This Be Love" initially struck us as "just" a "for the fans" teen flick, starring as it did young

GRAND/ A2-2

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Grand entrance for Baby Antonia

From page A2-1

TV faves **Sandara Park** and **Hero Angeles.** But writer-director **Joey Reyes** was factored into the production's equation, so the movie became more viewable because it told its *kilig* story within the context of some Filipino and Korean issues and character traits.

Sandara played a Korean student in Manila who disliked Filipinos because they weren't very welcoming to foreigners like her (so much for our vaunted "Filipino hospitality").

For his part, Hero got ticked off by Sandara because of her downbeat views on Filipinos, as expressed in a paper she had written which he had to type at the student services shop where he worked.

Of course, love and fate found a way to bring these two surly people together. Despite their initial mutual hostility, they soon found enough aspects of each other to tolerate, then like, then love.

The love angle was eekily gooey in spots, but the film still ended up as a viewer-pleaser even for this non-teenager, because the relevant issues that the production touched on provided timely food for thought.

The movie focused on significant themes like colonial mentality, cultural carpetbaggers, the importance of education, working youth, OCWs, family and friends, parents' preconceived notions about how young people should lead their lives, etc.

To be sure, these issues are touched on only sketchily, so viewers' resulting insights into them are limited. Still, the mere fact that they're brought up at all in a teen-flick is worthy of some commendation.

The movie's impact is similarly abridged by the production's characterizations, which tend to be stereotypical, rather than three-dimensional and thus truly empathetic.

However, thinking realistically, not much more could be expected of a movie that stars teen idols like Sandara and Hero, who are better known for their fresh-faced friskiness and appeal, rather than their thespic talent.

So, "Can This Be Love" can be appreciated and enjoyed for what it is, rather than for what it could have been. And the bottom line is, there's more to appreciate in this film than in the usual ga-ga teen caper.

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MICHAEL DE MESA
RODEL VELAYO
TIM YAP
& MARISSA DELGADO
Bikini open
SEIKO Films presentation
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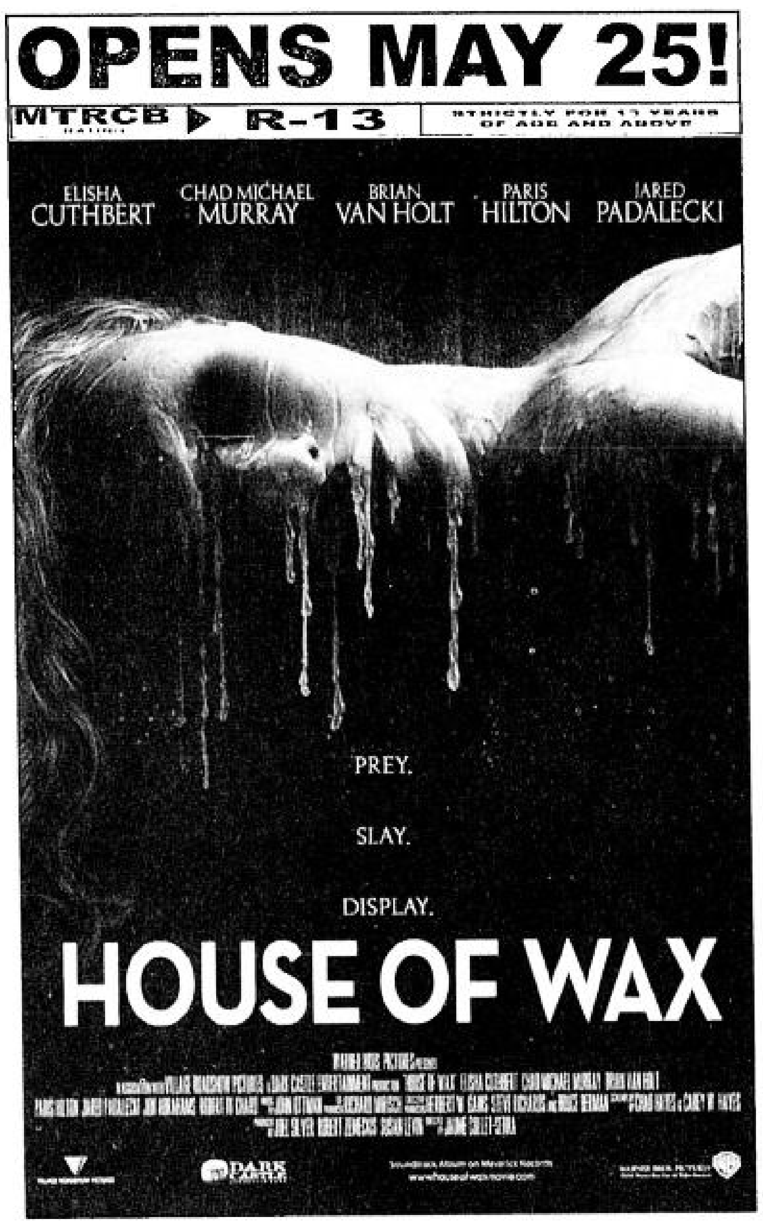
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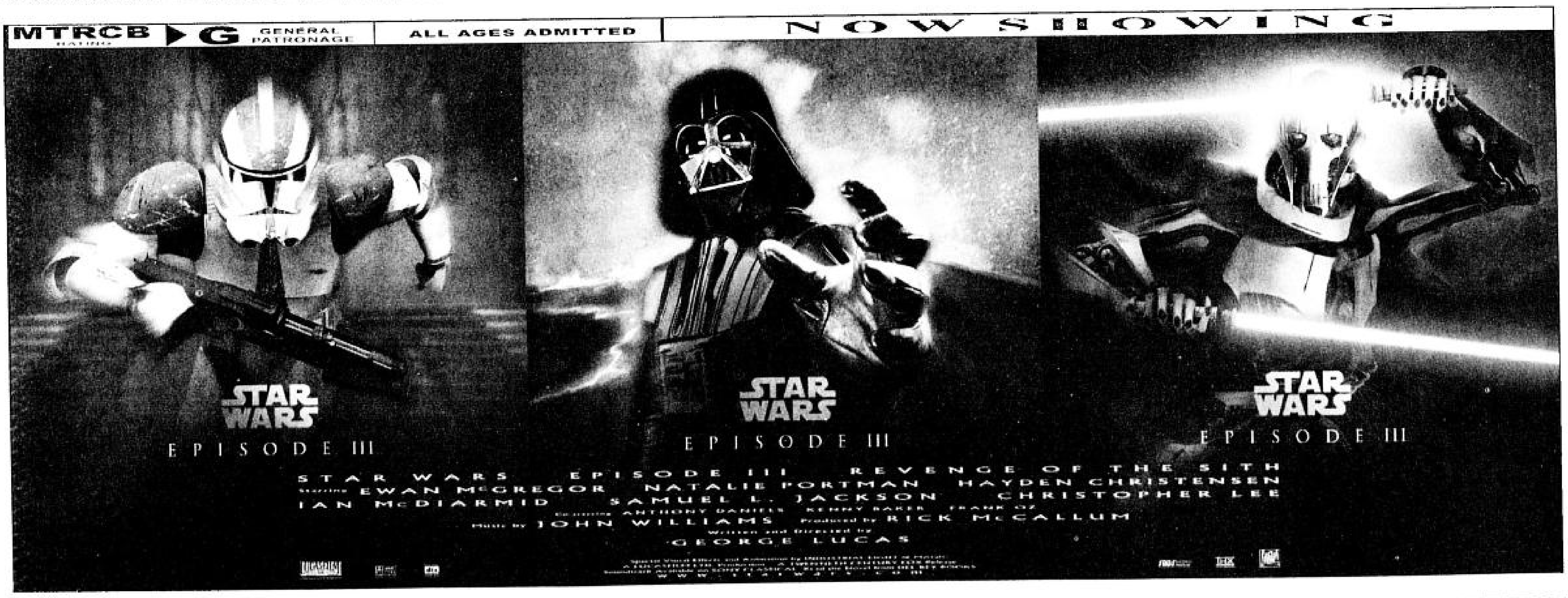
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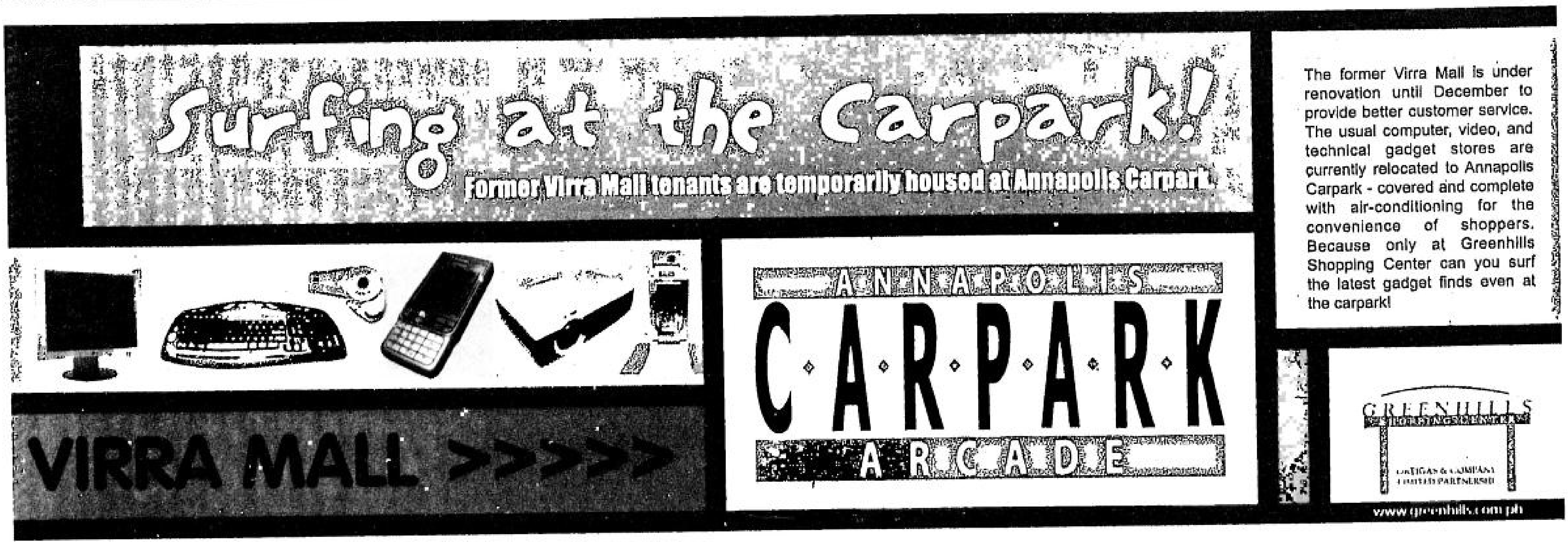
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May promotions at City Garden

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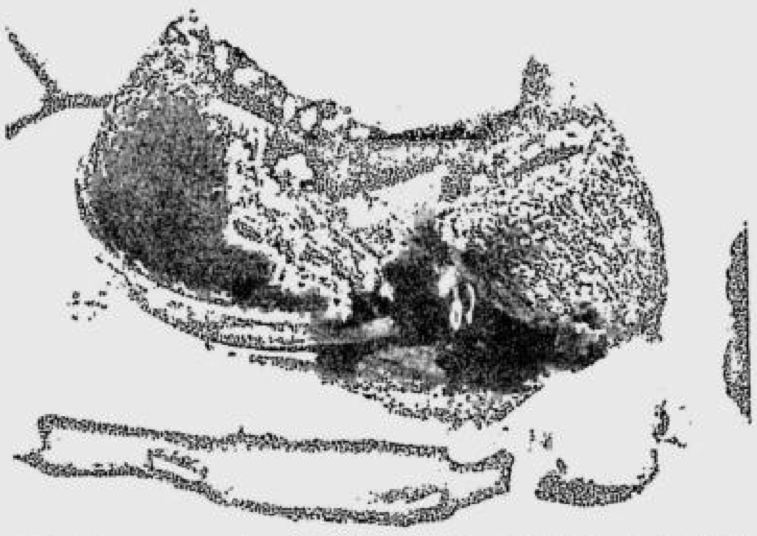
For those wanting to spend a relaxing day or weekend with the family, City Garden Hotel's room offering for as low as P1,350 per person on twin-sharing basis is an inexpensive treat. One can already enjoy the hotel's tastefully elegant guest rooms and facilities, inclusive of a choice of free sumptuous buffet breakfast for two or a Spa service at the hotel's Body & Face by Mendez, free use of its open-air swimming pool at the Roofdeck and its fully equipped Gym at the Penthouse. Two (2) children below 12 years of age, sharing room/bed with parents, stay for free.

Those needing extra pampering, the Body & Face by Mendez at the hotel's penthouse level has summer packages for individuals, couples or group. Try their Revitalizing Glow Package which comes with a choice of Salt Body Glow or Body Gommage and a choice of Swedish or Shiatsu Massage for only P1,800 or their Rejuvenating Escape that gives you a choice of Combination or Aromatherapy Massage and a choice of Men's Facial or Oil Control Facial or Nurturing Facial for only P1,500.

At the Roofdeck, one can try its summer offering of all time favorites like Halo-Halo, Barbeque, sandwiches, pasta, pizza and other delectable choices, daily. At dinnertime, enjoy the magnificent view of the citylights.

For the month of May until June, Le Jardin Restaurant , Roofdeck Bar & Service is offering appetizing seafood dishes like Salmon With Tarragon, Grilled Gindara in Light Teriyaki Sauce and Lemon Chili Crusted Squid for their "Seafoods Galore" special menu.

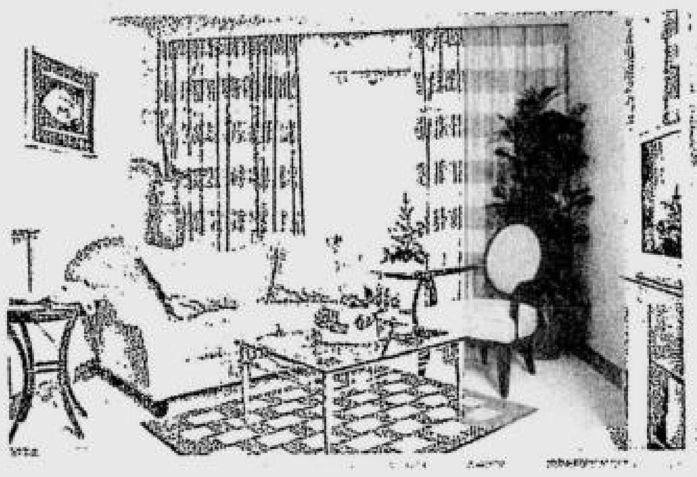
Chocolate eruption



TEMPT your taste buds with mouth-watering menus at the amazing Taal Vista Hotel and the beautiful Pearl Farm Beach Resort. Introducing "Chocolate Eruption"... rich and moist oozing with chocolate and topped with vanilla ice cream, this dessert was inspired by the breathtaking Taal Volcano that can be viewed from the Taal Vista Hotel. Chef Mikel Arriet has added this sweet treat to the menus of both Taal Vista Hotel and Pearl Farm that features new and delectable dishes. Chocolate Eruption is the perfect antidote to your chocolate addiction and goes well with coffee or any of the summer coolers available in both properties.

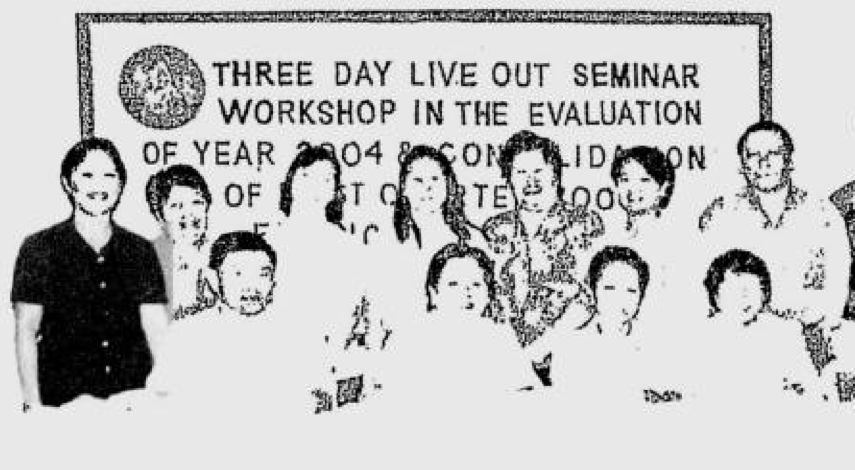
Taal Vista Hotel and Pearl Farm Beach Resort are managed by Fuego Hotels & Properties. For inquiries and reservations, call Taal Vista Hotel at (02)751-3088/89 or (02)886-4325. Pearl Farm Beach Resort at (02)750-1896/98 or (082)235-0876. Visit their websites at www.fuegohotels.com / www.pearlfarmresort.com / www.taalvistahotel.com

Bellevue's Local Resident's Rate



TAKE advantage of The Bellevue Hotel's Local Resident's Rate this month. At only P4000++ per night, you get a deluxe room accommodation, buffet breakfast for two, Aromatherapy service at The Bellevue Spa Club for one, and a whole lot more. For double occupancy with aromatherapy, the package costs P4880++.

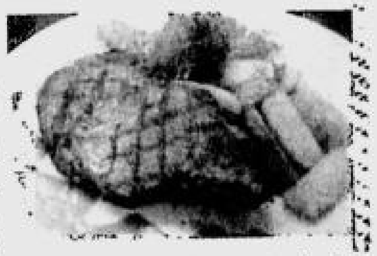
The Bellevue Hotel, setting the gold standard in the hospitality industry at the south of Metro Manila, is also an ideal place for intimate family gatherings as well as large company conferences. Aside from 222 deluxe and suite rooms, modern communications and banquet facilities and the latest gym equipment and spa treatments, the Bellevue embarks on its latest development, The Bellevue Hotel Grand Ballroom. For inquiries, call 771-8181.



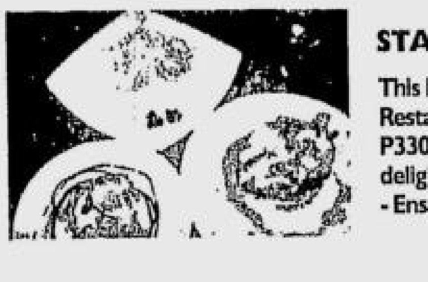
DEPED HOLDS SEMINAR AT LAS PALMAS HOTEL
The Department of Education City of Manila recently had a three days seminar at the Colonial Ballroom of Las Palmas Hotel. The workshop concentrated on the evaluation of year 2004 and consolidation of first quarter 2005 financial reports. Shown in the photo are the DepED NCR participants with (from left) Paulino Garcia - Regional Accountant, Claribel Alfaro - NCR COA Representative, Lucila S. Padayao Purungganan - Audit Team Leader and Josephine Lorenzo - Chief Accountant DepED Manila and over-all coordinator for the seminar. The function was facilitated by Katrina Mendoza - Las Palmas Hotel banquet account manager.

ASTORIA PLAZA TIES UP WITH CEBU PACIFIC
Astoria Plaza, represented by hotel manager Ping Regalado and director for marketing Nel Ruiz sign the contract formally partnering with Cebu Pacific, represented by marketing director Candice Iyog and product development specialist Mahalia Leung for the Fun Tours and Hotels Plus Program. Under this marketing venture, Cebu Pacific passengers shall enjoy discounted room rates and perks when checking in at Astoria Plaza in the Ortigas Business District.

Best of Beef and Burgundy



MANILA Pavilion Hotel presents a festival of prime-grade beef cooked and served in different styles in a promotion titled Best of Beef and Burgundy. Delight in its delectable menu consisting of Kansas Beef Soup, Sloppy Cow, Caesar's Beef, Chateaubriand, Medallion of Beef Tenderloin, Rib-Eye Steak, Cowboy Striploin Steak, Butterfly Striploin Steak, Beef Tenderloin Strips, and New York Sirloin Steak. The main courses are best paired with a glass or two of France's famous Burgundy White or Red wines for a more opulent feel. Best of Beef and Burgundy is available from May 16 to 28, at The Rotisserie during lunch from 12 noon to 3 p.m. and dinner from 6:30 to 10:30 p.m. For reservations and inquiries, please call the Manila Pavilion Hotel at 526-1212 extension 2505.



STA. FE COFFEE SHOP AND COCOY'S RESTAURANT'S CHEF'S SPECIAL FOR MAY

This May, catch Sta. Fe Coffee Shop and Cocoy's Restaurant newest promo - Chef's Special. For only P330 net per person treat yourself to this scrumptious delight. The menu is deliciously composed of cold salad - Ensalada Rosas in Calypso Dressing, main entrée - choose from Secret Spices Free Range of Chicken Breast or Pan Grilled Loin of Pork, and dessert - Home made Banana Cake. For reservations, please call at 521-1000 for Sta. Fe Coffee Shop and 522-1000 for Cocoy's Restaurant. Promo is good until May 31.

NANANATILI TAYONG No. 1, KAPUSO SA PANGKALAHATANG TV RATINGS!

Ayon sa ratings ng Nielsen Media Phils., patuloy po tayong nangunguna sa buong bansa nitong April 2005.

APRIL 2005 OVERALL COMBINED MARKET CHANNEL RATINGS
MEGA MANILA, METRO CEBU, DAVAO & DAGUPAN CITIES

Nielsen Media Phils. TV Dynamix	GMA TV Household Rating (%)	ABS-CBN TV Household Rating (%)
TOTAL DAY	**14**	11
MORNING (6am-12nn)	7.8	7.1
AFTERNOON (12nn-6pm)	13.5	12.3
EVENING (6pm-12mn)	19.9	14.6

TOP OVERALL & PRIMETIME PROGRAMS
12 OUT OF 15 ARE ON GMA

RANK	PROGRAM	CHANNEL	RATING %
1	**DARNA**	**GMA**	**31.4**
2	**STAIRWAY TO HEAVEN**	**GMA**	**30.0**
3	**DARNA** ANG HULING PAGLIPAD	**GMA**	**27.1**
4	**FULL HOUSE**	**GMA**	**26.3**
5	**EXTRA CHALLENGE** (Mon-Fri)	**GMA**	**26.2**
6	**EXTRA CHALLENGE** (Sat)	**GMA**	**21.7**
7	**ALL ABOUT EVE**	**GMA**	**21.5**
8	**BITOY'S FUNNIEST VIDEOS**	**GMA**	**21.3**
9	GOIN' BULILIT	ABS-CBN	20.8
10	SAVE THE LAST DANCE FOR ME	ABS-CBN	20.4
11	**24 ORAS**	**GMA**	**18.9**
12	**MAGPAKAILANMAN**	**GMA**	**18.9**
13	**ALL STAR K!**	**GMA**	**18.6**
14	**IMBESTIGADOR**	**GMA**	**17.9**
15	KRYSTALA	ABS-CBN	17.8

TOP NEWS & PUBLIC AFFAIRS PROGRAMS
6 OUT OF 10 ARE ON GMA

RANK	PROGRAM	CHANNEL	RATING %
1	**24 ORAS**	**GMA**	**18.9**
2	TV PATROL WORLD (Mon-Fri)	ABS-CBN	16.6
3	TV PATROL WORLD (Sat)	ABS-CBN	15.4
4	TV PATROL WORLD (Sun)	ABS-CBN	14.8
5	**SAKSI**	**GMA**	**7.3**
6	**PINOY ABROAD**	**GMA**	**5.9**
7	ABS-CBN INSIDER	ABS-CBN	5.1
8	**REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK**	**GMA**	**4.9**
9	**EMERGENCY**	**GMA**	**4.2**
10	**I-WITNESS**	**GMA**	**3.7**

Anumang lumalabas na "nationwide rating" na naglalaman ng 'di katulad na resulta ay maaring 'di nanggaling sa Nielsen TV Dynamix Software. Kung Nielsen man ang pinagmulan, marahil ay isinasama sa rating ng Metro Cebu, Davao at Dagupan Cities ang mga sambahayang walang TV. O 'di kaya'y ginamit ang naturang Nielsen ratings sa pagsaklaw sa ibang bahagi ng Luzon, Visayas at Mindanao ---na 'di naman talaga sakop ng Nielsen.

Sumusunod ang TV Household Projections mula sa pagsisiyasat ng Nielsen, kasama ang kaukulang weights gamit sa pagkalkula ng TV Program Ratings.

	NO. OF TV HOUSEHOLDS	WEIGHT
Mega Manila (Metro Manila and Rizal, Laguna, Cavite, Bulacan and Pampanga)	**3,514,000**	**87%**
Metro Cebu	257,000	6%
Davao City	228,000	6%
Dagupan City	25,000	1%

Kaya naman wala kaming tigil sa paghahatid ng mga programang kagigiliwan ng buong bansa ...bilang sukli sa inyong tiwala.

55 na tayo Kapuso

GMA

ENTERTAINM

'Sin City's' sinfully lovely girls

JESSICA Alba

In the name of investigative journalism, I uncover the, uh, facts

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Ruben V. Nepales

LOS ANGELES—Newsweek magazine described the female cast of "Sin City" as "what seems like the past six cover models of Maxim magazine."

I had the terrible job of interviewing these sinfully attractive women appearing in Robert Rodriguez and Frank Miller's visually stunning, panel-by-panel film adaptation of the latter's graphic novels. The drudgery of grilling these babes made me settle for just three: Jessica Alba, Rosario Dawson and Brittany Murphy.

In the name of investigative journalism, I uncovered the truth—there are seven, not six, previous or potential Maxim cover girls populating "Sin City." The other four are Carla Gugino, Jaime King, Alexis Bledel and Devon Aoki. Incidentally, my three interview subjects—Jessica, Rosario and Brittany—have indeed graced the cover of Maxim.

My tough fact-finding research for this column also yielded the crucial information that four of "Sin City's" femme fatales landed in Maxim's Hot 100 list: Jessica (no. 5), Brittany (no. 8), Jaime (no. 28) and Alexis (no. 87). For those desperate to learn who is on top of the heap, it's Eva Longoria of "Desperate Housewives."

Sweet new blonde

Jessica wears a skimpy cowgirl-stripper outfit in the crime saga that also stars Bruce Willis, Clive Owen, Benicio Del Toro, Mickey Rourke and Elijah Wood. She must have gotten cold from all that skin exposure because she came to the press con all covered up in a turtleneck sweater, although it is tight fitting.

Sweet and newly turned blonde at the time of the interview ("I wanted to look like my mom"), Jessica said of her character, Nancy, who is the sweetheart of "Sin City": "She is an exotic dancer but she doesn't approach it in a nasty way. There's nothing exploitative about it. Strip dancing is just what she does because it pays her bills and gets her through school. I have the whole back-story because I had the luxury of having Frank Miller telling me everything about her. So I never looked at her as just this very sexual girl. That wasn't the case at all. I trusted Robert. I don't think he would do anything that isn't tasteful. I wanted to work with him so bad and this was the first opportunity to work with him. I hope to God that I get to work with him again."

Strip classes

Asked if she took strip-dancing classes, Jessica explained, "I told Robert that I'll just get a choreographer who can teach me how to strip. I was very nervous about the whole thing. Robert said no, I think Nancy has her own thing. I think you should feel it. I was like, how do you that? So I went to strip clubs and just watched how girls do that. In the book, Frank made her really glamorous. She has a whole routine and she has chaps. She has a pistol and a rope. There's a theme and a lot more glamorous than what they do in actual strip clubs. I used my imagination and looked at it from my character's perspective—I tried to feel disconnected from all these sad people looking up to her. They're at the bottom of the barrel. They're sad, drunk and she is really the only thing they have."

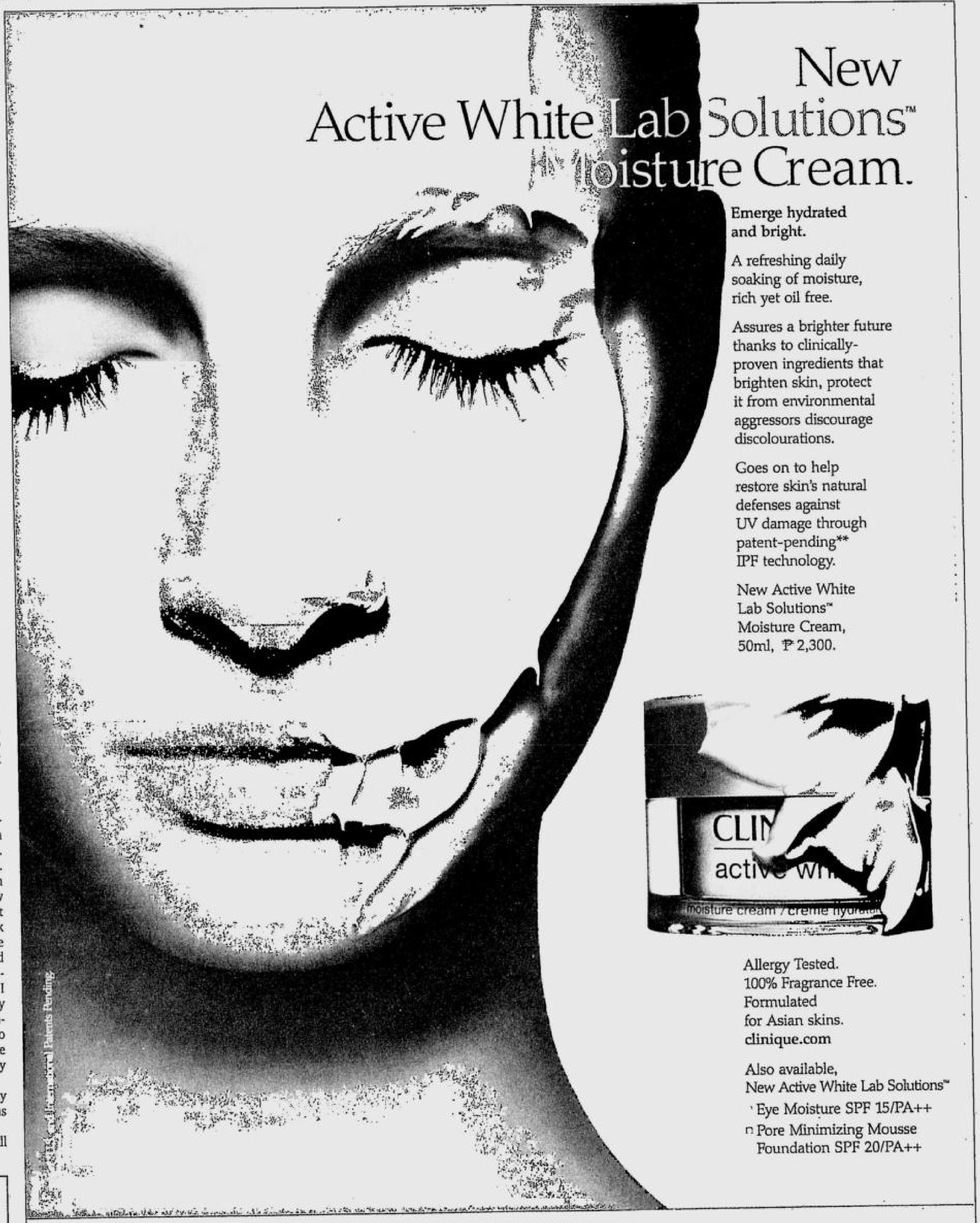
Jessica Alba, actress, goes to these sleazy bars (I tell you research is tough!)—how was that like?

"It made me uncomfortable because all these girls wanted to give me lap dances," she replied. "I said, I don't want to do that. I just want to talk to you. So we sat down. I gave them a hundred bucks to tell me why and how they became a stripper because I've always wondered, how do you dance onstage naked? How the hell do you do that? They wear heels this high. What if you fall? It's no joke. Sometimes they would fall. A couple of them said you just have to pretend like nobody else is there and it's just you. And then they said, so you want your lap dance now? I said, no! Here's another hundred bucks to not do that. That really made me nervous."

Rosario Dawson laughed when queried about her character Gail's skimpy black leather outfit (I think "skimpy" is the operative word in Frank Miller's drawings of women in the nov-

SIN/A3-2

ASIAN TOUR POSTPONED
Australian pop mega star Kylie Minogue, diagnosed with breast cancer, has announced she is postponing her Asian and Australian tours to start immediate treatment for the disease, which is still in the early stages. Meanwhile, despite doctors warnings that she would tire easily, she has continued recording and just completed a European tour. AFP



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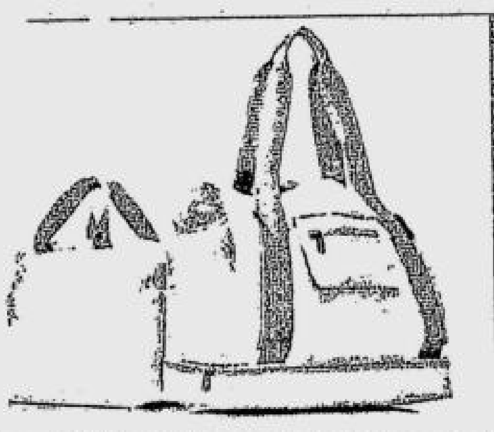

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1276, Series of 2005.

Film, fashion, fabulous!

FILM/ A3-4

a long while. This time she wore a spaghetti-strapped gown made of Chantilly lace in Luna gold, its tulle train in moss green further emphasizing the fishtail silhouette. For added show biz glitter, the designer sprinkled the gown with hints of Swarovski crystals.

In a sea of glitter and color, Lorna managed to stand out in a simple yet striking black jersey column. Apart from its plunging neckline and clingy silhouette, the gown was cinched at the empire to show off LT's voluptuous figure. The bottom part of the skirt was adorned with layers of pleated chiffon and bias inserts.

The magician in Cabral didn't end there. Since the gown was cut asymmetrically, its train shifted on the right side instead of the back. A pair of dolman-like sleeves were actually fitted and cut on the bias to achieve such an effect. The series of belts wound around the actress' waist were actually satin straps adorned with rhinestone balls.

For a change, Geneva veered from her dangerously revealing outfits in Iglesias' version of Dior's Gigi look of the 1950s. This time, though, the designer opted for Indian sari in hot pink and lime green. It was delightful to see a decent-looking but playful Geneva in a mid-calf dress with pink layers of sequined petticoat. She wore it under a pure silk jacket with a face-flattering portrait collar.

Was there ever a time Cherie looked dowdy? For some reason, the actress, or at least the character she plays on screen, always manages to look chic even in a *duster*. And with Gaupo dressing
her up, everybod
to shine even bef
onto the Red Carp
True to form, C
appoint as she g
green princess-c
stunner with a s
embellished with
lace. The look h
glam written all
the actress again

Not without G

And what wou
the 1950s be like
who, together wi
Blanca (how w
reigned as the d
puted movie quee

She's now to
those fabulous Va
she once carried w
aplomb, but the a
aged to look regal
spired by her 195
Kong Holiday." H
one where she pl
princess disguise
girl?

Since Gloria
over skirt, Buend
length tunic with
lar and loose pan
light yellow silk.
reminiscent of K
burn with a libera
talia.

Other notewor
those worn by H
(in a Barge Ran

BRITTANY Murphy

'Sin City's' . . .

From page A2-1

el). "You can't not be Gail when you're wearing that
fit," she answered after her laughter subsided. "You're
sically an S&M superhero. It was wonderful getting int
When we did an EW (Entertainment Weekly) shoo
hadn't worn the costume for months. But as soon as I
it on, every crude joke that I've learned from guys ca
back to my head. I'm out there and just having a rip-r
ing laughing time. Because you can't take yourself too
riously when you're wearing something like that. I
very powerful and strong in that costume."

I asked Rosario if indeed she has been taking these s
roles lately (she appeared topless in "Alexander")
cause, as she was quoted as saying, she'd like to be abl
tell her grandkids when she's 80 that she looked this g
when she was young. "Yes, I've grown to be less inhib
with myself," she replied. "I definitely had insecur
when I was growing up. It's ironic that now I'm pla
these younger characters or I'm playing these charac
who are more sexually expressive than I have been bef
I've been acting for 10 years. I didn't play these things
fore because I wasn't comfortable doing them."

Did she get to keep her leather hooker costume? "Th
what my boyfriend keeps asking me," said Rosario
laughed again.

In contrast, Brittany Mur
as Shellie the bartender, is
only woman in "Sin City" w
keeps her clothes on. W
asked if that was in her contr.
Brittany answered with a sm
"No. That's only because Fr
Miller always drew Shellie w
clothes. So fortunately for
that character was clothed."

(E-mail the columnist rvnepales@yahoo.com.)

ROSARIO Dawson

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the podium cinema
1. STAR WARS III
11:00 LFS / 11:30 MF / 2:10 / 4:50 / 7:30
9:40 LFS / 10:10 LMF / 12:20 END
2. STAR WARS III
11:40 LFS / 12:10 MF / 2:50 / 5:30 / 8:10
10:20 LFS / 11:00 LMF / 1:10 END
633-8076

sm megamall cinema 1
THE INTERPRETER
12:00 LFS / 12:45 MF / 3:10 / 5:45
7:35 LFS / 8:30 LMF / 10:30 END
STAR WARS III
[illegible]
633-1901

sm manila cinema 6
STAR WARS: EPISODE III
10:10 LFS / 10:25 MF / 1:10 / 3:55 / 6:40
3:05 LFS / 3:25 LMF / 12:05 END
523-9240

sm cebu cinema
CINEMA 1: STAR WARS: EPISODE III
10:40 LFS / 10:50 MF / 1:00 / 3:50 / 6:20
8:35 LFS / 8:50 LMF / 11:05 END
CINEMA 3: STAR WARS: EPISODE III
11:20 LFS / 11:30 MF / 2:00 / 4:30 / 7:00
9:15 LFS / 9:30 LMF / 11:45 END
(032) 231-3876

METRO MANILA

sm megamall
1 STAR WARS : EPISODE III
2 AMITYVILLE HORROR
3 STAR WARS : EPISODE III
4 STAR WARS: EPISODE III
5 CAN THIS BE LOVE
6 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
7 RESERVED
8 RESERVED
9 RESERVED
10 STAR WARS : EPISODE III
11 TRUMPETS
12 BIKINI OPEN

sm city fairview
1 THE PACIFIER
2 HEAD IN THE CLOUDS
3 IN GOOD COMPANY
4 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
5 CAN THIS BE LOVE
6 STAR WARS : EPISODE III
7 STAR WARS : EPISODE III
8 STAR WARS : EPISODE III
9 AMITYVILLE HORROR
10 xXx 2 : THE NEXT LEVEL
11 ARE WE THERE YET
12 BIKINI OPEN

sm city north edsa
1 STAR WARS : EPISODE III
2 STAR WARS : EPISODE III
3 RESERVED
4 xXx 2: THE NEXT LEVEL
5 BIKINI OPEN
6 THE AMITYVILLE
7 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
8 STAR WARS : EPISODE III

sm city manila
1 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
2 AMITYVILLE HORROR
3 RING OF NIBELUNGS
4 STAR WARS : EPISODE III
5 POOH HEFFALUMP
6 STAR WARS: EPISODE III
7 xXx2 : THE NEXT LEVEL
8 IN GOOD COMPANY
9 STAR WARS: EPISODE III
10 THE WEDDING DATE
11 THIS CAN BE LOVE
12 BIKINI OPEN

sm city sta. mesa
1 STAR WARS : EPISODE III
2 BIKINI OPEN
3 STAR WARS : EPISODE III
4 RESERVED
5 RESERVED
6 CAN THIS BE LOVE
7 AMTIVYLLE HORROR
8 IN GOOD COMPANY
9 STAR WARS: EPISODE III
10 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

sm city southmall
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 STAR WARS : EPISODE III
4 STAR WARS : EPISODE III
5 xXx 2 : THE NEXT LEVEL
6 CAN THIS BE LOVE
7 STAR WARS : EPISODE III
8 BIKINI OPEN
9 AMITYVILLE HORROR
10 KINDOM OF HEAVEN

sm city bicutan
1 STAR WARS : EPISODE III
2 BIKINI OPEN
3 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
4 STAR WARS : EPISODE III

sm cinema tutuban
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

sm supercenter sucat
1 KINDOM OF HEAVEN
2 STAR WARS ; EPISODE III
3 STAR WARS : EPISODE III
4 BIKINI OPEN

LUZON

sm city pampanga
1 STAR WARS : EPISODE III
2 STAR WARS ; EPISODE III
3 STAR WARS : EPISODE III
4 CAN THIS BE LOVE
5 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
6 BIKINI OPEN

sm city baguio
1 STAR WARS : EPISODE III
2 BOOGEYMAN
3 BIKINI OPEN
4 STAR WARS: EPISODE III

sm city batangas
1 STAR WARS : EPISODE III
2 BIKINI OPEN
3 STAR WARS : EPISODE III
4 BOOGEYMAN

sm city dasmariñas
1 STAR WARS : EPISODE III
2 BIKINI OPEN
3 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
4 STAR WARS : EPISODE III

sm city marilao
1 STAR WARS : EPISODE III
2 BIKINI OPEN
3 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
4 STAR WARS : EPISODE III

sm city bacoor
1 ANG LAGUSAN
2 AMITYVILLE HORROR
3 STAR WARS : EPISODE III
4 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
5 STAR WARS : EPISODE III
6 BIKINI OPEN
7 CAN THIS BE LOVE
8 IN GOOD COMPANY

sm city lucena
1 STAR WARS : EPISODE
2 STAR WARS : EPISODE III
3 BIKINI OPEN
4 ALONE IN THE DARK

VISAYAS AND MINDANAO

sm city cebu
1 STAR WARS : EPISODE III
2 RESERVED
3 STAR WARS : EPISODE III
4 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
5 SIX
6 HONEY
7 BIKINI OPEN
8 STAR WARS : EPISODE III

sm city iloilo
1 THE INTERPRETER
2 RESERVED
3 STAR WARS : EPISODE III
4 SAHARA
5 SIX
6 STAR WARS : EPISODE III
7 RESERVED
8 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

sm city davao
1 STAR WARS : EPISODE III
2 BIKINI OPEN
3 STAR WARS : EPISODE III
4 GUESS WHO
5 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
6 STAR WARS: EPISODE III

sm city cagayan de oro
1 STAR WARS : EPISODE III
2 BOOGEYMAN
3 SAHARA
4 STAR WARS : EPISODE III

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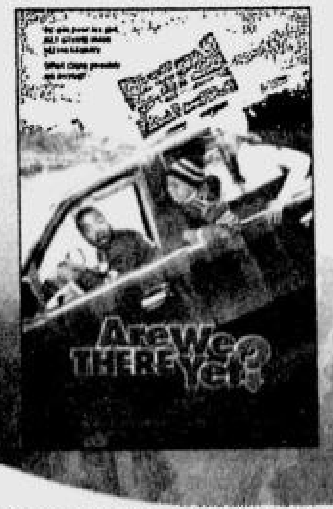

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12:45, 3:50, 6:55, 10:00
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8:05, 11:05
GP
3 STAR WARS III: REVENGE OF THE SITH
10:20, 1:20, 4:20,
7:20, 10:20
GP
4 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
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STAR WARS: EPISODE III GP 12:20,3:15,6:10,9:05	AMITYVILLE HORROR R13 1:00,3:00,5:00,7:00,9:00	STAR WARS: EPISODE III GP 11:10,2:05,5.00,8:00,10:50

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CINEMA 5 STAR WARS : EPISODE III - GP
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herie didn't dis- ided in a blue- t silk taffeta le and bra top black Chantilly ad Hollywood over it, which id justice to.

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d a tribute to without Gloria, n the late Nida e miss her), ecade's undis- n?

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avored pants a did a floor- Mandarin col- both made of The look was atherine Hep- dose of Orien-

hy gowns were rancine Prieto os), Sunshine

LORNA Tolentino slips into a clingy, black jersey number

CHERIE Gil, gorgeous as usual

AUBREY Miles takes the plunge.

Cruz (Pineda), Angelu de Leon (Avel Bacudio), Maricel Laxa (Larry Espinosa), Lani Mercado (Curata), Angel Locsin (Curata) and—down with your brows, sweeties—Celia Rodriguez (in a Leonardo Dadivas).

The Celia challenge

Since no one was reportedly brave enough to dress up Celia, Dadivas deserves our praise for daring to take her on. The diva stole the scene from women half her age in an egg-yolk yellow column with an exaggerated top fashioned from huge ruffles made to look like a giant rose. Only Celia—and Celia alone (we can't say it enough)—could pull off such a spectacle.

Angel also looked stunning in a strapless midnight blue taffeta column with fan-like ruffles as accents on the bodice and train. Unlike Celia, however, Angel was too young and inexperienced, fashion-wise, to give justice to the look.

It was a case of too much, too soon for the star of "Darna," who ended up wearing yet another costume, and a beautiful one at that.

(E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph)

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'Sarong Banggi' composer's remains comes home

By Michael B. Jaucian
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

LEGAZPI CITY—After six decades at the La Loma cemetery in Metro Manila, the remains of the late Bicolano musician Potenciano "Lolo Potin" Gregorio, composer of the popular ditty, "Sarong Banggi" (One Night), was brought home yesterday to his native town of Sto. Domingo, Albay.

Gregorio was given full military honors posthumously Wednesday morning at the Potenciano Gregorio Garden, Camp Gen. Simeon Ola, upon arrival here.

Gregorio was a member of the Philippine Constabulary Band with the rank of corporal.

Sto. Domingo residents held a vigil at the Potenciano Gregorio Gym Wednesday night. The remains were reinterred 12 noon yesterday at the town's Pugad Lawin Park.

Erwin Gregorio, 42, great grandson, tearfully said having Lolo Potin buried in Sto. Domingo at last was every Bicolano's dream. Erwin had sought the help of the National Historical Institute for the transfer.

Rep. Edcel Lagman, Sto. Domingo Mayor Herbie Aguas and other local officials earlier said they were putting up a museum at the town plaza in honor of Lolo Potin.

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STAR WARS
EPISODE III
REVENGE OF THE SITH

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Cinema 1 - 10:40 am, 1:30 pm, 4:20, 10:00
Cinema 2 - 11:10 am, 2:00 pm, 4:50, 7:40, 10:30
Cinema 3 - 11:40 am, 2:30 pm, 5:20, 8:10, 11:00
Cinema 4 - 1:00 pm, 3:50, 6:40, 9:30
Cinema 5 - 12:30 pm, 3:20, 6:10, 9:00

GLORIETTA 1
Cinema 1 - 12:30 pm, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30
Cinema 2 - 1:00 pm, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00
Cinema 3 - 10:30 am, 1:30 pm, 4:30, 7:30,10:30

GLORIETTA 4
Cinema 1 - 12:40 pm, 3:30, 6:20, 9:10
Cinema 2 - 11:45 am, 2:35 pm, 5:25, 8:15, 11:05
Cinema 3 - 12:10 pm, 3:00, 11:30
Cinema 6 - 1:40 pm, 4:30, 10:10
Cinema 7 - 1:10 pm, 4:00, 6:50, 9:40

GREENBELT 1
Cinema 1 - 12:30 pm, 3:20, 6:10, 8:15
Cinema 2 - 1:15 pm, 4:05, 6:55, 9:00

GREENBELT 3
Cinema 1 - 1:40 pm, 4:30, 10:10
Cinema 2 - 2:10 pm, 5:00, 10:40
Cinema 3 - 1:10 pm, 4:00, 6:50, 9:40, 12.30
Cinema 4 - 12:40 pm, 3:30, 6:20, 9:10, 12:00
Cinema 5 - 12:15 pm, 3:05, 5:55, 11:35

MARKET! MARKET!
Cinema 5 - 12:20 pm, 3:10, 6:00, 8:50
Cinema 6 -12:50 pm, 3:40, 6:30, 9:20
Cinema 7 - 1:20 pm, 4:10, 7:00, 9:50

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ENTERTAINMENT

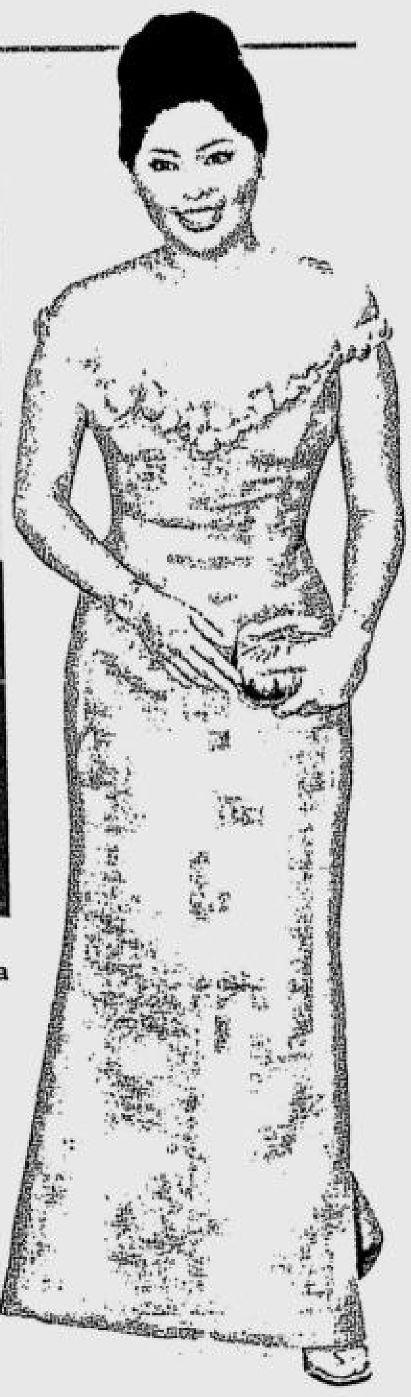
CLAUDINE Barretto, with boyfriend Raymart Santiago, goes neo-vintage.

MARICEL Laxa, with a boyish-looking Dennis Trillo, in a strapless and draped A-line gown accented with strips of silk.

SUNSHINE Cruz, with real-life leading man Cesar Montano, is a throwback to a bygone era when stars were tall, slim and fair.

Film, fashion, fabulous!

BLOOMING Maricel Soriano takes on prints for a change.



LAVENDER (and gold) becomes Angelu de Leon

Text by Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Joseph Agcaoili

Our top picks at the Film Academy of the Philippines Luna Awards: Maricel Soriano, Claudine Baretto, Assunta de Rossi, Gloria Romero, Cherie Gil, Geneva Cruz and Lorna Tolentino

IF THEY can't duplicate the "Golden Age" of Philippine movies by coming up with exceptional films, today's show biz denizens can at least try to look the part by dressing up in their idea of 1950s glamour.

Which was exactly what they did at the recent Luna awards (FAP to those born before Saturday), when not a few of the country's leading ladies walked down the Red Carpet in serpentine gowns or below-the-knee crinoline skirts fashioned from such materials as chiffon, organza, faille, taffeta, lace, tulle and even Indian sari.

The men—at least most of them—looked dapper in dark or pin-striped suits. Jay Manalo, in an all-white ensemble (down to the belt and shoes) by Frederick Peralta, stood out from the pack of dark knights. Not that Jomari Yllana, in a pin-striped number by Eric Pineda, or Piolo Pascual, who ditched the basic tie in favor of a silk Ascot-style scarf, looked wanting.

Certainly audacious

The angelic-looking Piolo (can he ever go wrong?) could have gotten away even in a denim jacket over a vintage pair of jeans. What made Jay stand out, on the other hand, was his audacity to break away from pre-conceived dress codes. The opposite was true in the case of the seemingly troubled Baron Geisler.

The young actor seemed like he was in the wrong venue (and era), looking more like a wasted musician in a tattered suit and pair of Chuck Taylors. Baron later placed a stick of cigarette at the top of his right ear. *Sanggano* chic?

Support roles

Of course, men, as always, were relegated to support roles. The real players in such style showdowns have always been the women. If we were to trim down the crowded field of gorgeous gowns to five—okay, seven—best-dressed nominees, our top picks would be: Maricel Soriano in an Ito Curata; Claudine Baretto in a Randy Ortiz; Assunta de Rossi in a Frederick Peralta; Gloria Romero in a JC Buendia; Cherie Gil in a Cesar Gaupo; Geneva Cruz in a Marden Iglesias and Lorna Tolentino in a Paul Cabral.

Maricel, who dared to wear a printed, silk faille number accented with a huge cabbage rose, looked refreshing. There's no middle ground when it comes to wearing prints. It's either you soar or you suck in florals. And the actress definitely soared, her gambit having paid off beautifully. For an added 1950s touch, Curata did a serpentine silhouette with a ruby red train made of Thai silk.

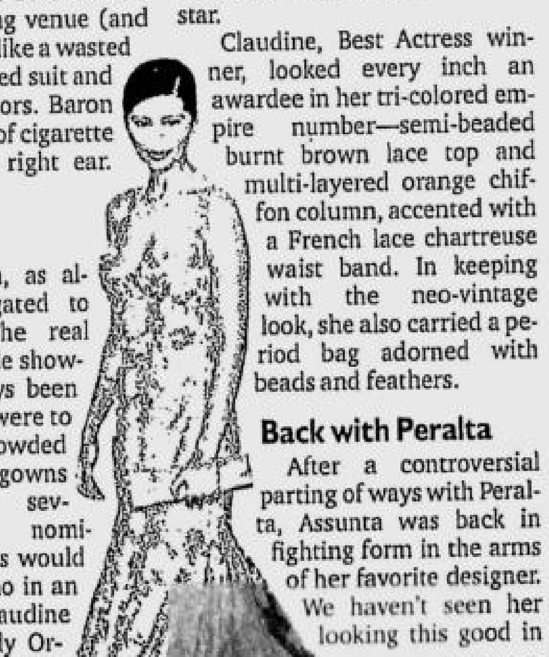
However, Maricel should have toned down her beehive hairdo. A simple chignon would have provided better contrast to an already striking dress. Other than that, she gets our vote as the evening's best-dressed female star.

Claudine, Best Actress winner, looked every inch an awardee in her tri-colored empire number—semi-beaded burnt brown lace top and multi-layered orange chiffon column, accented with a French lace chartreuse waist band. In keeping with the neo-vintage look, she also carried a period bag adorned with beads and feathers.

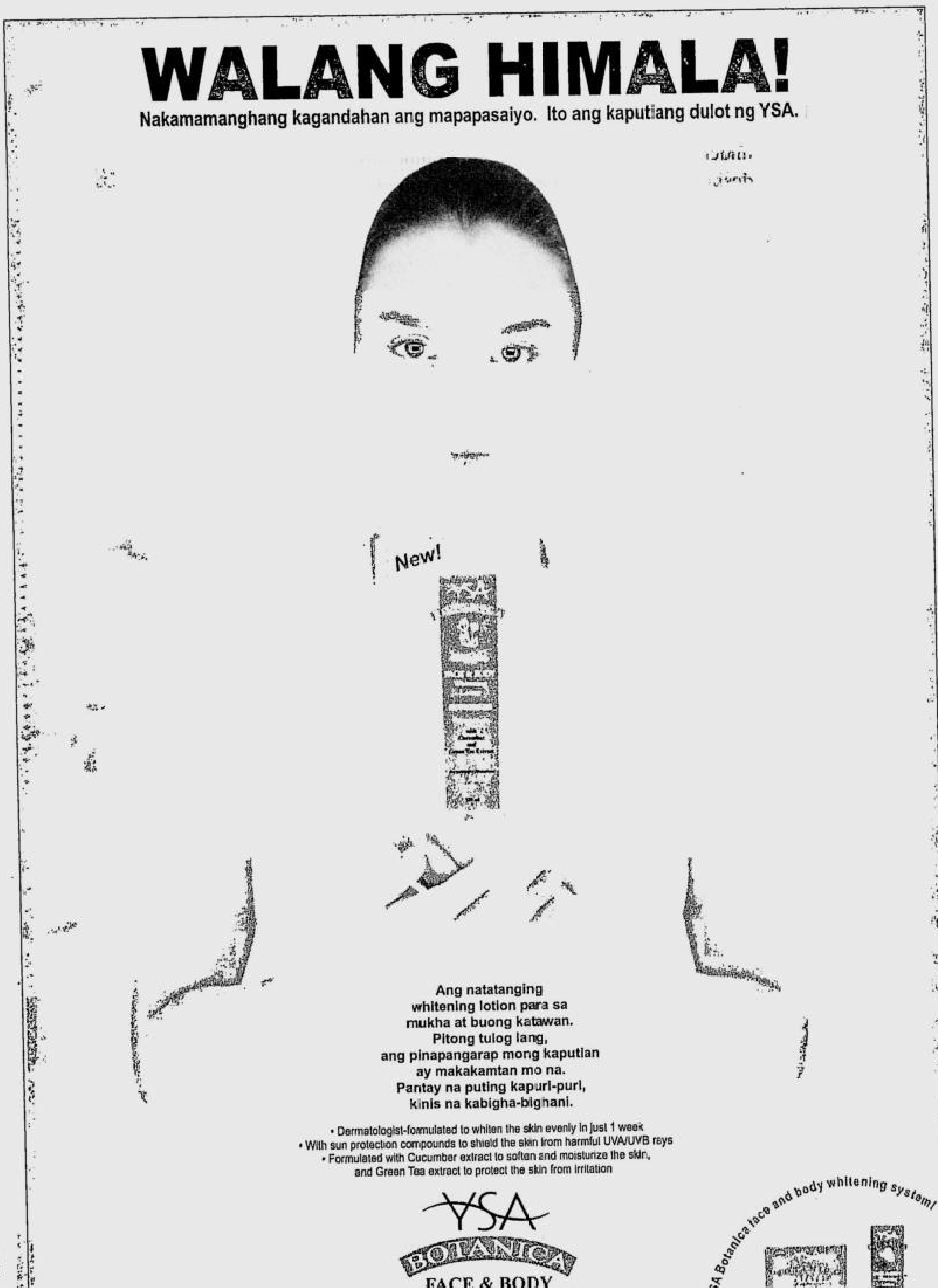
Back with Peralta

After a controversial parting of ways with Peralta, Assunta was back in fighting form in the arms of her favorite designer. We haven't seen her looking this good in

FILM/ A3-2



GOLDEN girl Assunta de Rossi.



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Editor **Raul O. Marcelo**
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Gov't posts P3.3-B budget surplus

By Michelle V. Remo

FOR THE first time in four years, the government posted a budget surplus in April as revenue collections increased while expenditures dropped.

The Department of Finance yesterday said the surplus amounted to P3.3 billion, a turn around from a deficit of P7.8 billion in April last year.

Revenue collection in April reached P82.784 billion, or 9.1 percent higher than the P75.853 billion in the same month last year.

Disbursements decreased by 5 percent to P79.445 billion from year-ago level.

The surplus had been expected after the Bureau of Internal Revenue, the main revenue collecting agency of the government, announced on Tuesday a record collection of P62.9 billion in April. This was 18.7 percent higher than the year-ago level.

The April figure boosted optimism that an improved tax take and a set of revenue reforms were easing the country's serious fiscal problems.

"This is very encouraging. We now have a surplus after staying on a deficit for quite some time," said National Treasurer Omar Cruz in a briefing yesterday. He said the last time the government recorded a one-month surplus was still in April 2001.

Revenue Commissioner Guillermo Parayno Jr. said the record collection in April can be attributed to higher income tax remittances which, he said, was a result of the government's intensified program against tax evasion.

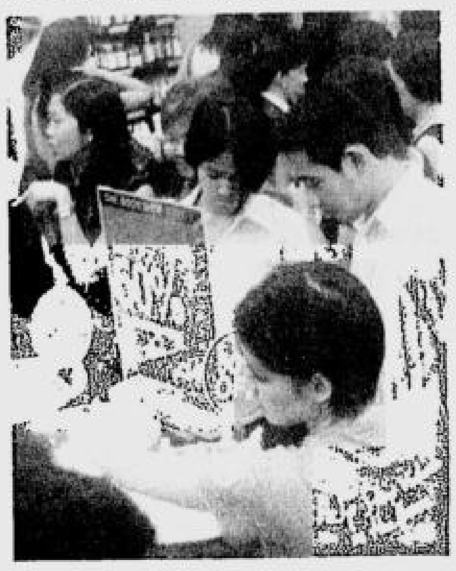
The DOF and the BIR recently launched the RATE (Run After Tax Evaders) program, under which they file tax evasion charges against celebrities and known businesses, hoping to encourage the public to pay their taxes.

The Bureau of Customs, the second biggest revenue contributor of the government, generated P12.428 billion, or 17.5 percent higher than the previous year's P10.576 billion. The Bureau of Treasury and other government agencies collected P7.421 billion.

On a cumulative basis, the government's budget stayed on a deficit although the figure was better than the previous year's.

GOV'T/B7

WHAT'S INSIDE



■ Down with domestic violence, says The Body Shop /B4
■ SMC sees hefty growth in '05 sales /B2
■ EPCIB spotlight still on 'treasury' shares /B3

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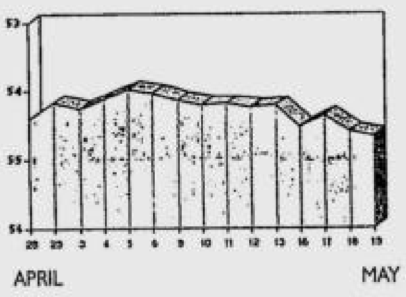

P 54.665 = $ 1

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As of 5 p.m., May 18, 2005

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STOCK MARKET

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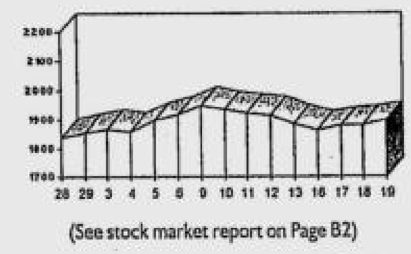

(See stock market report on Page B2)

Shares close 0.7% higher

THE MAIN stock index yesterday closed higher, boosted by the government's budget surplus posted in April, Wall Street's overnight rally and falling oil prices, traders said.

The benchmark 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index closed up 13.70 points, or 0.7 percent, at 1,893.09, after rising 0.9 percent in the past two sessions, including Wednesday's 0.2 percent uptick.

Blue-chip Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. was the most actively traded stock, up 1.8 percent at P1,450, on bargain hunting.

Other index movers were San Miguel B, up 0.6 percent at P86.50; Ayala Corp., higher by 1.5 percent at P6.90, and SM Prime, up 2.7 percent at P7.60 .

During trading, the government announced it managed to post a P3.3-billion surplus in April, a turnaround from the P7.8 -billion deficit a year ago. The government credited higher revenue collection and lower expenditure for the April surplus.

The market also moved in step with Wednesday's 1.3 -percent rise in both the Dow Jones Industrial Average and Nasdaq Composite Index, brought about by a tame US April inflation report.

On the New York Mercantile Exchange Wednesday, US light crude for June delivery fell 3.5 percent to $47.25 (euro37.26) a barrel. The downward trend in world oil prices is already reflected in local oil prices.

Yesterday's rally, however, wasn't broad-based, as decliners led gainers 34 to 23, while 57 stocks were unchanged. *AP*

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SMC expects 71% growth in sales this year to ₱300B

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

SAN MIGUEL Corp. is projecting a 71-percent increase in sales this year to P300 billion from P174.7 billion last year.

The expected sales growth will be brought about by the company's recent acquisition and the continued strengthening of SMC's food and beverage businesses.

SMC president Ramon S. Ang yesterday said that despite the initial weakness in the first quarter, he was confident that SMC would achieve volume growth among its beverage subsidiaries and that the second quarter would be better.

SMC said it was banking on its new food businesses—such as ice cream, coffee, biscuits and snack foods—to contribute to revenue growth but with beer remaining the main driver of growth. The beer business has been delivering a 15-percent volume growth in the past three years.

He said that while Cosmos Bottling Corp., posted a weaker net earnings in the first quarter, it continued to expand its market share. Its share rose to 22 percent last year from only 11 percent in 1999.

Cosmos contributed P10.9 billion in sales revenue last year, or double the P5 billion in sales revenue before SMC acquired the company in 2001.

SMC is embarking on its largest acquisition this year, with Australian dairy giant National Foods Ltd. as the target. This was estimated to cost about A$1.9 billion (US$1.5 billion).

The conglomerate is securing a bridge financing or loan from a consortium of banks worth US$1.1 billion for this.

Ang said SMC might consider forming a holding company for its National Foods bid. Portion of this holding firm's shares would be sold to other investors.

Ang said such a move would allow SMC to minimize its cash outlay for the bid.

SMC is aiming to acquire 100 percent of National Foods. It, however, needs the approval of at least 50 percent of its shareholders to complete its bid. SMC sources earlier said the company would likely complete its acquisition of National Foods this month.

SSS property dev't project OKd

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE GOVERNMENT'S Investment Coordination Committee has approved the Social Security System's proposed mixed-use property development project in Quezon City, which is estimated to cost at least P8 billion.

The proposed complex will house the new headquarters of the SSS.

SSS president Corazon De la Paz yesterday said the pension fund's proposed 33-storey twin towers—to be called the SSS Corporate Center—would break ground by the end of the year.

De la Paz said the project would undergo the so-called "Swiss challenge;" wherein the SSS would seek proposals from other parties interested in the project.

London-based EC Harris, the project proponent, will construct the project on a build-operate-transfer basis if no other party would come up with a better proposal.

De la Paz said the Quezon City Council had reclassified the pension fund's 4.45-hectare property at the corner of Edsa and East Avenue into a special economic zone. The area was earlier classified as an "institutional zone," which means the property should be used for government offices.

The City Council has given the SSS one year starting this month to begin the project.

De la Paz said the project was expected to generate more than 15,000 jobs and more than P50 million in additional yearly revenue for the city.

The SSS Corporate Center will also house a shopping mall and residential condominium units. Since it will be implemented under the BOT scheme, the project would not require any cash outlay on the part of the SSS.

The SSS is now studying plans on what to do with its old property on East Avenue.

DFP profit up 11% to ₱560M

DUTY Free Philippines posted a net income of P560 million last year, 11 percent higher than year-ago level and the largest since the present management assumed office in 2001.

DFP general manager Michael Kho said in a statement that the return of DFP to profitability following successive years of losses would enable the company to reassume its mandate to provide enough funding for the country's tourism programs and projects.

Executive Order No. 46 mandated DFP to remit its earnings to the Department of Tourism, its parent agency, for tourism development.

Kho said DFP under his administration marked P403.5 million in net income in 2001, P528 million in 2002 and P503 million in 2003.

Prior to that, DFP suffered successive years of losses with P535 million in losses in 1997, P1.151 billion in 1998, P205 million in 1999, and P212 million in 2000.

Kho attributed the turnaround to the vigorous restructuring programs undertaken by the company to cut operating costs, trim inventory carry costs and deploy DFP funds to more productive use. These included non-personnel related cost-cutting measures, rationalization of merchandise procurement, and fine-tuning of operating procedures to cut wastage and boost efficiency.

Kho noted that the state-owned firm managed an 8-percent increase in sales last year to $142 million from $132 million in 2003, the first time it experienced revenue growth since 1995.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of May 19, 2005)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	28	28.5	28	28.5	253,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	49	49	48.5	49	663,000
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.64	0.64	0.64	0.64	510,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	46.5	47	46.5	47	71,100
International Exch. Bank	18.5	18.75	18.5	18.75	143,100
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	32	32	32	32	496,800
Philippine National Bank	33	34	33	34	186,100
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	11.5	11.5	11.5	11.5	3,900
Union Bank of the Phil.	27	27.5	27	27.5	113,000
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
ATR Kim Eng Fin. Corp.	1.92	1.92	1.92	1.92	90,000
Filipino Fund Inc.	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4	30,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	290	290	280	290	1,350
Manulife Financial Corp.	2410	2410	2410	2410	750
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1	1	1	1	580,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1680	1680	1680	1680	510
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	13	13.25	13	13	31,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	1.06	1.08	1.06	1.06	4,603,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	835	835	830	830	15,890
Ipeople Inc.	3.5	3.55	3.45	3.45	37,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.21	0.22	0.21	0.22	80,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3.25	3.3	3.25	3.25	1,439,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1425	1455	1425	1450	116,200
Ivantage Corp.	0.61	0.62	0.61	0.62	360,000
Philweb Corp.	0.018	0.018	0.016	0.017	14,100,000
POWER, ENERGY & OTHER UTILITIES					
Manila Electric Co. A	16	16.25	16	16.25	5,400
Manila Electric Co. B	23.75	24	23.75	24	792,100
Manila Water Co. Inc.	5.8	5.9	5.8	5.9	11,728,000
Petron Corp.	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	2,467,000
Salcon Power Corp.	2.12	2.12	2.12	2.12	500,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	5,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	7.7	7.7	7.5	7.6	880,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	50,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Holcim Philippines Inc.	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	223,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	61,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.35	3.35	3.3	3.3	20,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	33.5	33.5	33.5	33.5	251,700
Jollibee Foods Corp.	27.5	27.5	27.5	27.5	968,100
Pancake House Inc.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	10,000
San Miguel Corp. A	58	58.5	58	58.5	51,800
San Miguel Corp. B	86	86.5	85	85.5	176,800
Universal Robina Corp.	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	563,800
Vitarich Corp.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	100,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	15,000,000
Ayala Corp.	7	7.2	6.8	6.9	3,576,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	4.75	4.75	4.7	4.75	630,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	5,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	5,600,000
A. Soriano Corp.	1.96	1.96	1.96	1.96	8,023,000
APC Group Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	250,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	5,000,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1	1	0.96	0.96	13,380,000
A Brown Company Inc.	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	10,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.155	0.155	0.155	0.155	10,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.2	0.205	0.2	0.205	300,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.33	0.34	0.31	0.31	8,500,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	2.44	2.44	2.42	2.42	1,326,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.035	0.035	0.035	0.035	500,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	8	8	7.9	7.9	18,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	43.5	44.5	43.5	44	619,500
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.14	0.14	700,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.085	0.085	0.0825	0.0825	900,000
House Of Investments Inc.	1.16	1.2	1.16	1.2	454,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4	1,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015	1,000,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.36	1.38	1.34	1.34	2,785,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.27	0.35	0.27	0.35	40,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.37	0.37	0.35	0.35	16,110,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	20,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	100,000
SM Investments Corp.	248	248	247	248	563,130
South China Resources Inc.	0.62	0.63	0.62	0.63	40,000
Seafront Resources Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	10,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	14,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.17	0.175	0.17	0.175	1,950,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.225	0.225	0.22	0.22	1,310,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Picop Resources Inc.	0.105	0.11	0.105	0.11	200,000
Panasonic Mfg Phil Corp.	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5	10,000
Pryce Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	520,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	1.14	1.14	1.08	1.12	4,470,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.3	1.3	1.24	1.26	1,470,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.33	0.33	0.32	0.32	650,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	13	13	12.75	12.75	1,542,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series M	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Q	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	400
PLDT (10% Pref) Series R	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	200
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.6	8,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	7.7	7.7	7.6	7.6	3,434,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	240,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.92	0.92	0.92	0.92	230,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.205	0.205	0.2	0.2	980,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.38	0.38	0.36	0.36	2,510,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.52	1.52	1.44	1.44	10,073,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.51	0.51	0.48	0.48	520,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	100,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.5	7.6	7.5	7.6	2,431,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	35,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	4.3	4.3	4.25	4.25	77,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.3	0.3	0.29	0.3	5,550,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.32	0.32	0.3	0.3	5,950,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.013	0.014	0.013	0.014	123,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.019	0.02	0.019	0.019	10,500,000
Omico Corp.	0.006	0.0065	0.006	0.006	21,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.88	0.88	0.88	0.88	300,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	1	1	0.99	0.99	1,340,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	28.5	28.5	27.5	28	92,300
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.16	0.16	0.155	0.155	200,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	6,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	8,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	60,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	2.48	2.48	2.48	2.48	206,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.15	0.155	0.15	0.15	5,500,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.29	0.29	0.28	0.28	530,000

DISCLOSURES

ALCORN Gold Resources Corp. rescheduled its annual stockholders' meeting from June 10 to July 16, 2 p.m., at the Manila Golf and Country Club (Fairways Room) Harvard Road, Forbes Park, Makati City. Stockholders of record as of May 10 are entitled to notice of and vote at the meeting.

***

ABOITIZ Equity Ventures Inc. elected Jose Vitug as independent director.

***

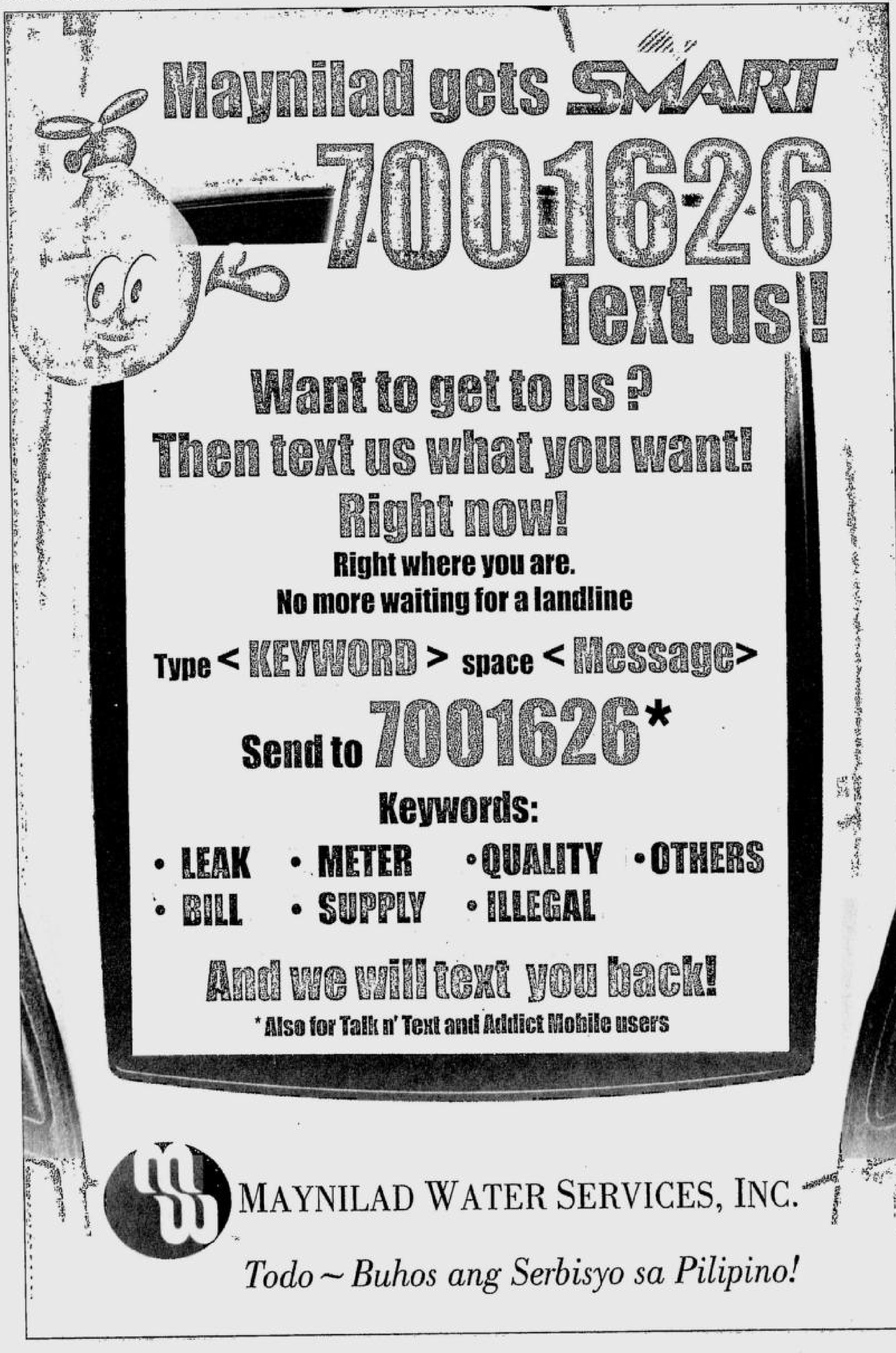
PRUDENTIAL Bank elected as directors Jose Santos, Augusto Benedicto Santos, Roman Santos, Blanquita Gonzalez, William Tiosic, Augusto Estrada, Mario Santos Jr., Horacio Santos Jr., Francisco Delgado, Delfin Lazaro and Renato Paras.

***

ACESITE (Phils.) Hotel Corp. postponed its annual stockholders' meeting from June 15 to July 19, 4 p.m., at the Manila Pavilion Hotel on United Nations Ave., Ermita, Manila. It also reset the record date for stockholders who will be entitled to notice of and vote at the meeting from May 26 to June 30. ***Compiled by Cyril L. Bonabente, PDI Research***

CURRENCIES

May 19, 2005 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.78814628	1.000000	54.4660
Japan	Yen	0.007373	0.009355	0.5095
United Kingdom	Pound	1.451056	1.841100	100.2774
Hongkong	Dollar	0.101122	0.128304	6.9882
Switzerland	Franc	0.647614	0.821693	44.7543
Canada	Dollar	0.62591	0.794155	43.2544
Singapore	Dollar	0.477867	0.606318	33.0237
Australia	Dollar	0.598532	0.759417	41.3624
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.090629	2.652590	144.4760
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.210173	0.266667	14.5243
Brunei	Dollar	0.476423	0.604485	32.9239
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000084	0.000106	0.0058
Thailand	Baht	0.019769	0.025083	1.3662
UAE	Dirham	0.214596	0.272279	14.8299
Euro	Euro	1	1.268800	69.1065
Argentina	Peso	0.273187	0.346620	18.8790
Brazil	REAL	0.320606	0.406785	22.1560
Denmark	Kroner	0.13428	0.170375	9.2796
India	Rupee	0.018148	0.023026	1.2541
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.207435	0.263193	14.3351
Mexico	New Peso	0.072092	0.091470	4.9820
New Zealand	Dollar	0.560918	0.711693	38.7631
Norway	Kroner	0.123194	0.156309	8.5135
Pakistan	Rupee	0.013249	0.016810	0.9156
South Africa	Rand	0.12326	0.156392	8.5180
Korea	Won	0.000786	0.000997	0.0543
Sweden	Kroner	0.108958	0.138246	7.5297
Syria	Pound	0.015183	0.019264	1.0492
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025148	0.031908	1.7379
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000367	0.000466	0.0254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The 10-percent solution

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

THE EQUITABLE PCIBank executive committee will meet on Tuesday to discuss the fate of the 10 percent "treasury" shares now being held by the bank's investment house subsidiary, but being voted by the pro-Go management to ensure that the Gos remain in power despite their now minority shareholdings.

According to the grapevine, the disposition of the 10-percent bloc is again on the table in view of the forthcoming shareholders' meeting and the unresolved GSIS suit against the management from unilaterally allocating the 10-percent vote solely for the Go bloc.

The Government Service Insurance System, which together with the Social Security System control about 38 percent of the bank as against the Go's 25 percent, instead wants the votes from the 10-percent bloc to be equitably distributed among the bank's shareholders.

Despite being upheld by the Bangko Sentral, the GSIS was unable to push through with the vote-sharing formula after the GSIS-SSS nominees in last year's board elections were disqualified on a technicality, giving the Go bloc a slim eight seats—including the three independent directors led by GMA adviser Roberto Romulo who vote along with the Gos—in the 15-member board.

A repeat of last year's showdown was averted in April when the bank management, claiming that the SGV would be unable to finish the audit report in time, postponed this year's shareholders' meeting to July.

According to the grapevine, the 10-percent bloc represents the balance of unpaid shares of then Equitable chair George Go when the smaller bank swallowed, with the help of the Erap-era GSIS and SSS funds, the much larger PCI Bank.

That bloc, so the story goes, was supposed to have been flipped to foreign investors, but the planned sale had been spooked by the Jose Velarde jitters and the bank share price subsequently tanking.

The Gokongwei factor

ONE SOLUTION now being considered is to sell the 10-percent bloc to an outside bank, a proposal that created another boardroom tempest amid allegations from the GSIS-SSS bloc that management was secretly negotiating with taipan John Gokongwei's Robinsons Savings Bank, allegations that the Gokongwei camp dismisses as "pure intrigue."

What is lending a veneer of truth to the tale is that Equitable PCI Bank chair Antonio Go remains a frequent travel and dinner companion of Gokongwei, a fact that both Go and the taipan never attempt to hide.

Despite having been forced to sell out of PCIBank during the Erap years, Gokongwei has steadfastly kept his banking business with his former bank, to the tune, according to one account, of P9 billion a year.

Gokongwei himself maintains he no longer needs a bank to have access to cheaper funds, with the capital markets now having been liberalized.

Still, with Equitable PCIBank share price trading at nearly 50 percent discount from pre-merger prices, the temptation remains.

Two banks for the price of one, not counting the devaluation discount; how long can Mr. John resist?

Money-go-round

- METRO Pacific, RFM, Swift and DMCI, along with the usual *basura* stocks, are on carpet with the Philippine Stock Exchange for their failure to submit their respective 2004 annual reports despite a longer deadline.
- Philippine Airlines is starting a thrice weekly, direct Manila-to-Beijing service next year.

Heard through the grapevine

THE GSIS attempt to remove the rusting steel tower on top of the condemned Philcomcen building in Ortigas has been stuck in a legal quagmire.

The dismantling of the looming disaster was stopped by an injunction issued by Pasay RTC Judge Ernesto Reyes on behalf of GSIS joint venture partner Goldloop Properties of Emmanuel Zapanta opposing the removal.

GSIS has elevated the case to the Court of Appeals where, it is hoped, the issue would be resolved before nature intervenes.

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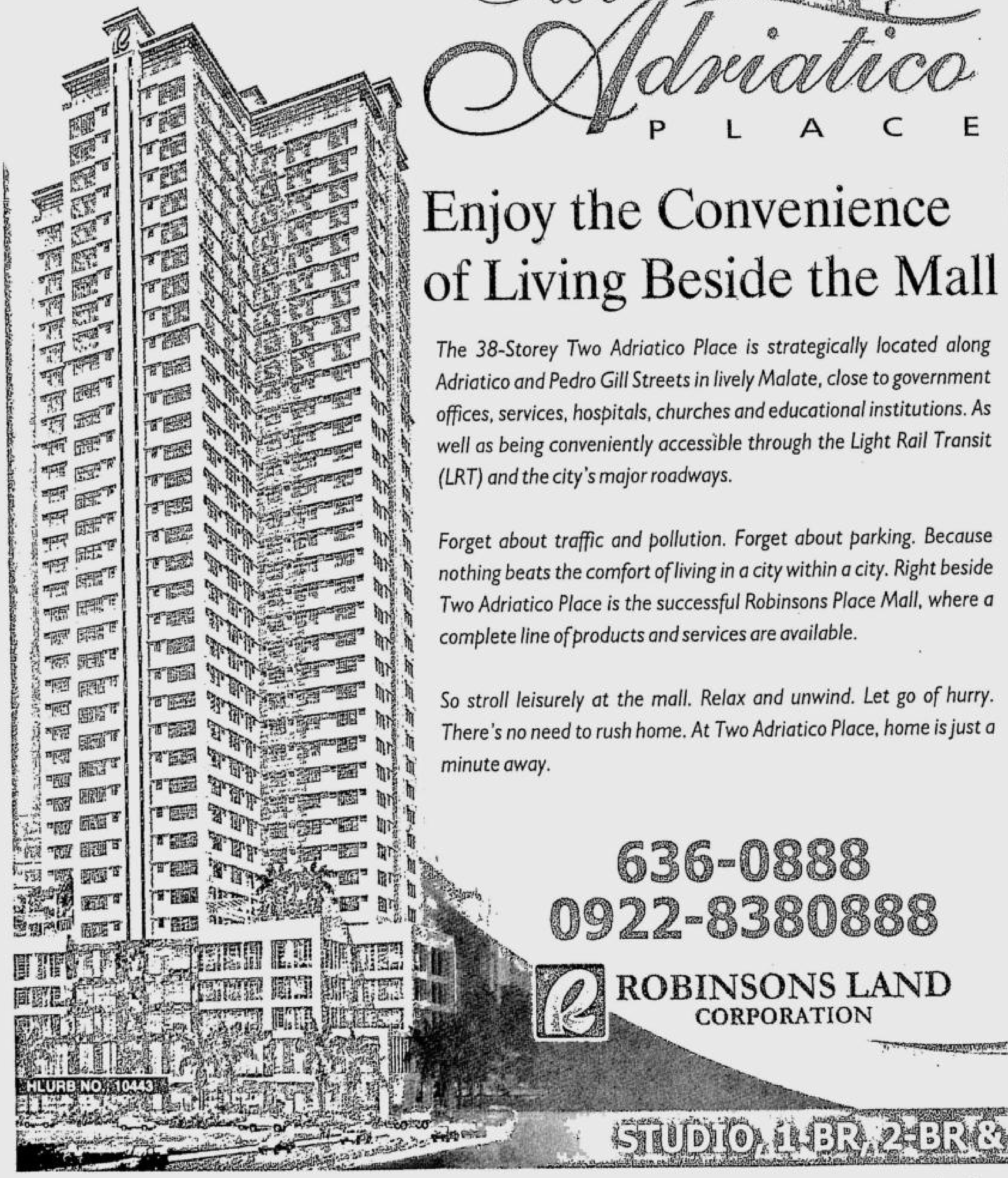

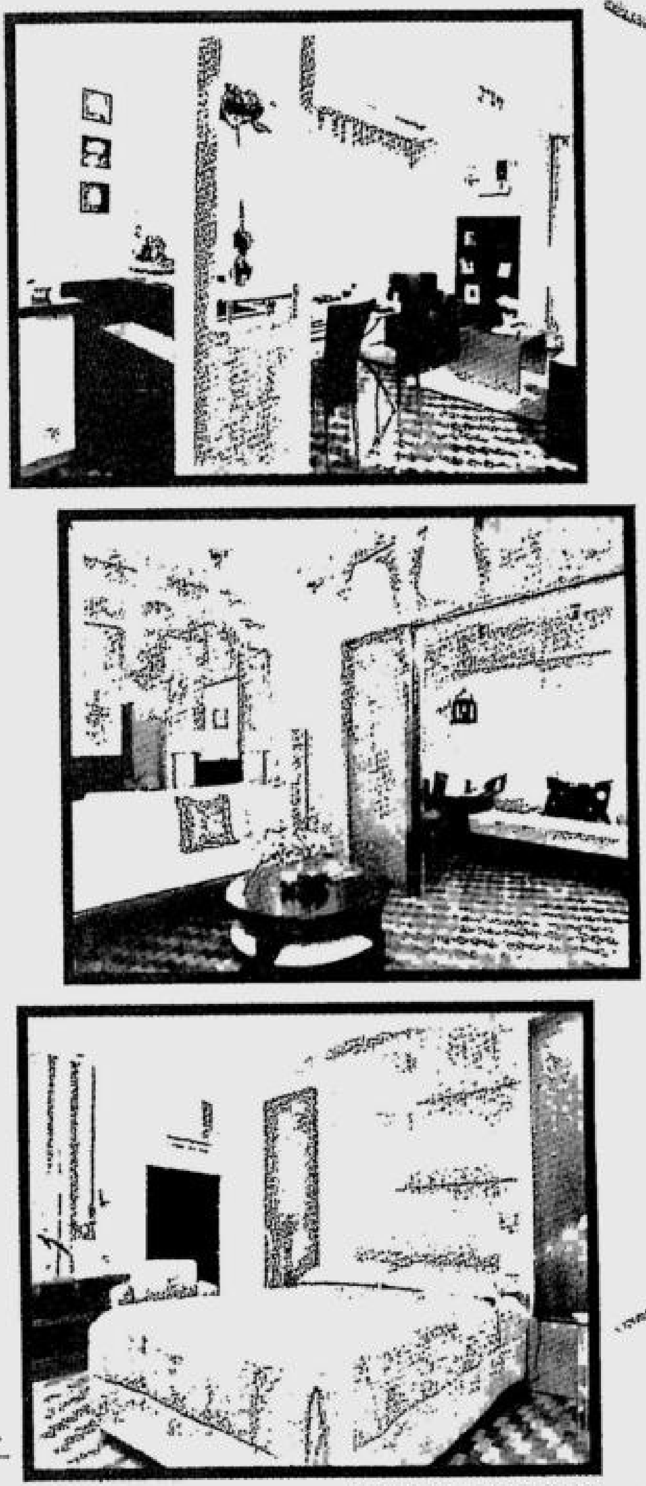

Actual Photos of Model Unit

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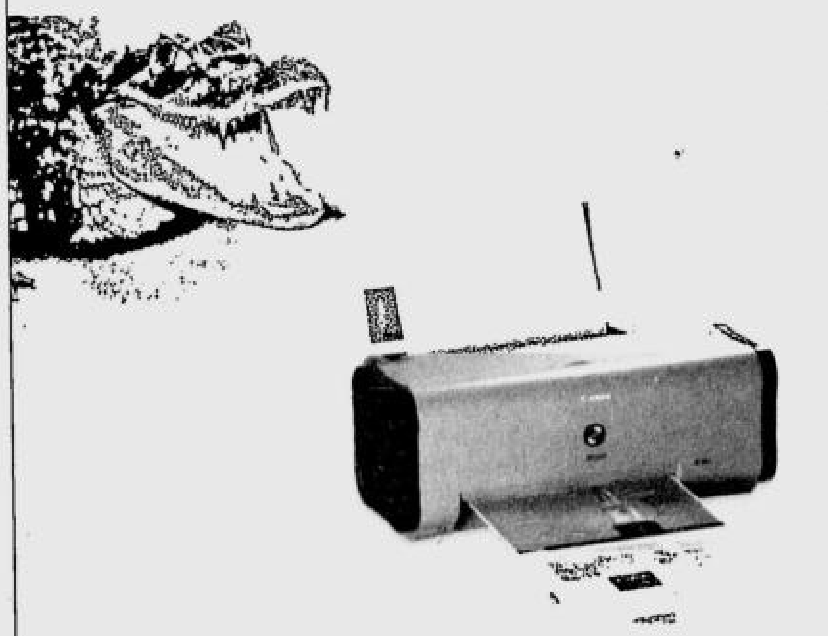

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Expected cut in production seen to put an end to RP's sugar exports

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE FORESEEN cut in local sugar production may prompt government officials to stop all sugar exports starting next year, according to the Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA).

SRA officials expected a shortfall in production due to the reduction of areas planted to sugarcane and the spiraling costs of fertilizer in the country.

"This is the end of our export program," said James Christopher Ledesma, SRA administrator. "I don't think we will have a sugar surplus in the next two years."

Ledesma in an interview said that the sugar output for the next crop year beginning September 2005, could be lower than the current crop year's estimated output ranging from 2.17 to 2.18 million metric tons.

He said this would prevent the country from exporting sugar other than the 137,000 metric tons stipulated quota for the US market.

"We will be hard pressed to even meet this year's (production target)," Ledesma said. "If we end up at 2.18 million tons for the current crop year, it will be a challenge to maintain that for the crop year 2005-2006."

He said lower prices in the 2004 crop year, which averaged only P740 for a 50-kilogram bag, had discouraged farmers from planting sugarcane and forced them to shift to other crops such as corn, pineapple and bananas.

In the province of Bukidnon alone, around 10,000 hectares of sugarcane area have been lost to other crops as a result of plummeting prices, he said. Lower mill gate prices were attributed mainly to excess supply in the market after the record output during the previous crop year.

In addition to this, rising cost of petroleum-based fertilizers, the price of which almost doubled in the last two years, also hit production in some areas, Ledesma said.

The Philippines in the 1970s was a leading sugar exporter, but it became a net importer in 1993.

It returned to the export market last year after the country became self sufficient in sugar production in 2003.

The Philippines produced a record 2.32 million tons of sugar in 2003-04. The average mill gate price then was P800 for every 50-kilogram bag.

The GRANDEST BACK-TO-SCHOOL PROMO OF 2005 will explode on May 21!
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THE BODY SHOP CRY

Down with domestic violence

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

CORPORATE CITIZEN

THE HIGH profile case involving Melissa Martel brought to public consciousness what many have long known to be a brutal fact—many women are beaten or sexually abused by loved ones.

For The Body Shop, it is unconscionable to continue marketing and selling products that make women look and feel good about themselves, knowing that other women are silently suffering from abuse in their own homes.

The Body Shop, thus, launched a global awareness and fund-raising campaign to help stop violence in the home. The campaign has recently made its way to the Philippines.

The Body Shop Philippines partnered with the Women's Crisis Center when it launched a signature campaign last April to gather support against domestic violence.

CUSTOMERS trooped to The Body Shop branch in Greenbelt 4 last month to sign up for the "Stop Violence in the Home" campaign.

Core issues

The WCC is a non-profit, non-government organization that helps women and children fight back and recover from the trauma of violence and abuse at the hands of husbands, parents and relatives.

Kevin Sargison, The Body Shop's retail director for Asia Pacific, said that domestic violence was one of the core issues the company has been fighting against for years.

According to Sargison, violence is present everywhere—from the most developed to the poorest countries.

For the Philippines, Sargison said The Body Shop would finance the campaign partly through the sale of a special edition Stop Violence in the Home Mint Lip Care Stick.

The stick is sold for P150 each, of which P50 will go to help WCC in its efforts to help victims of domestic violence.

Children's Room

One of the WCC's programs is the Children's Room at the East Avenue Medical Center, which is run in coordination with the hospital's Women and Children Crisis Care and Protection Unit.

Sargison said part of the funds raised by The Body Shop would go to the improvement of the Children's Room.

The Body Shop will provide the Children's Room with a television, educational materials, a place for reading and storytelling, and art and play materials.

WCC figures show that about one of 10 cases that it handles involves abuse, rape and incest committed on children and adolescents.

The WCC helped put up the Children's Room to provide a haven for young girls who are either children of battered women or survivors of rape, incest and other forms of child abuse.

It is also a place where the abused children are given the chance to express their repressed feelings through art or play, helping them heal from their traumatic experiences at the hands of loved ones.

By helping upgrade the facilities of the Children's Room, The Body Shop hopes to give the abused children an opportunity to restore a semblance of normalcy in their lives.

Battling domestic violence

The Body Shop has been battling domestic violence since 1994, when it kicked off its awareness campaign in Canada.

The campaign then spread to the United States in 2002, the United Kingdom in 2003, and then to Europe, Middle East, Africa and Asia Pacific in 2004.

The Philippines' "Stop Violence in the Home" campaign kicked off last March 8, in time for the celebration of the International Women's Day.

Each shop carried The Body Shop's "Stop Violence in the Home" global icon while employees took part in the fund raising efforts.

The Body Shop in the Philippines, however, has actually been involved in the fight against domestic violence as early as 1997, when it first got together with the WCC to help it in its advocacies.

The "Stop Violence in the Home" campaign takes the fight a notch higher, this time directly involving The Body Shop's customers.

Sargison said that the campaign to protect women and children against domestic abuse is an indispensable part of the way The Body Shop does its business.

Aside from developing quality products, the UK-based firm is known for campaigning for five core values—two of which are to defend human rights and activate self-esteem, where the campaign on domestic violence falls under.

The three other core values are: Protect the planet, support community trade and stop animal testing.

Since The Body Shop came to the Philippines in May 1996, it has been involved in local projects in line with the five core values.

In 1996, for instance, The Body Shop founder Anita Roddick visited the Philippines and donated the first set of educational materials to Childhope Asia Philippines to support its "street education" campaign.

Bigger purpose

The Body Shop is also involved in the "Save the La Mesa Watershed" project, in partnership with ABS-CBN's Bantay Kalikasan campaign.

It is not difficult to get The Body Shop management and employees to donate their time, effort and even money to these and other projects, for they feel good about doing something for others.

As The Body Shop corporate values manager Ma. Eula E. Espe said: "Corporate values activities is important, for it emphasizes and reminds people in the corporate world that life is more than just the trading of products and services within the four walls or space they inhabit, it is also about the fulfillment of a bigger purpose meant for all."

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AEV eyes Mirant, Kepco for coal plant

By Clarissa S. Batino

ABOITIZ Equity Ventures is considering taking in Mirant Philippines Corp. and Korean Electric Power Co. as strategic partners in a 200-megawatt coal-fired electric plant in Cebu.

AEV president and chief executive officer Jon Ramon Aboitiz said in a recent briefing that the company would invest between $300 and $500 million in the next three years to put up three new power plants in Cebu and Davao.

"We have told Mirant and Kepco about the coal plant. We will bid out the 200-MW coal project," said the company president.

The coal plant is expected to be on stream before 2008.

He said the company wanted to build new power plants in anticipation of a projected power shortage in the Visayas and Mindanao starting 2008.

In Davao, he said Aboitiz would build two new hydroelectric plants with a combined capacity of 76 MW.

Aboitiz said the group would likely build its own hydro plants in Davao given the company's expertise in mini hydroelectric projects.

He said the company would sell part of its 890 million treasury shares to help finance the power plants.

Power accounts for 56 percent of the revenue of the listed company, followed by banking with 28 percent.

AEV grew its profits by 42 percent in the first quarter to P626 million.

PRULINK	PRU LIFE U.K.	
Investments of Variable Life Insurance Contracts	Current Week May 17, 2005	Last Week May 10, 2005
Bond Fund - Peso	1.24277	1.23744
Managed Fund - Peso	1.33835	1.34313
Bond Fund - US Dollar	1.0937	1.1002

* Note: These investments of variable life insurance contracts are not mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission

INSULAR LIFE	UNIT PRICES (in Php)	
Investment Funds of Wealth Builder	May 16, 2005	May 9, 2005
Fixed Income Fund	1.022976	1.021124
Balanced Fund	1.008811	1.012067
Equity Fund	0.976441	0.992259

These investment funds are specific to variable life insurance contracts and are not considered mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission.
The weekly unit prices are also available at www.insularlife.com.ph.

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dti
DEPARTMENT OF TRADE & INDUSTRY PHILIPPINES

BUREAU OF PRODUCT STANDARDS
Department of Trade and Industry
Republic of the Philippines

DEPARTMENT ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
No. 04 : Series of 2005

Subject: Mandatory Philippine National Standards for Flat Glass

1. In accordance with the provisions of R.A. No. 4109, R.A. No. 7394, Executive Order No. 913, Series of 1983, DAO No. 02, Series of 2002, DAO No. 1, Series of 1997, DAO No. 5, Series of 2001, and Sec 10(4), Title X, Book IV, of the Administrative Code of 1987, the following Philippine National Standard is hereby adopted for mandatory implementation:

   PNS 193:2005 Flat Glass - Specification

2. All manufacturers, distributors, importers and retailers of said product shall comply with the requirements of this standard.
3. A third party certification, known as the Product Certification Scheme of the DTI - Bureau or Product Standards (BPS), requires all manufacturers and importers of said product to secure a Philippine Standard (PS) License and an Import Commodity Clearance (ICC), respectively, prior to its distribution and sale.
4. The DTI-BPS shall promulgate implementing guidelines specifying implementing timetables, taking into consideration present inventory levels, production capabilities of industries, and testing capabilities of DTI-BPS and other testing institutions.
5. The implementation of these standard shall be done in proper coordination with the DTI Regional and Provincial Offices and the DTI - Bureau of Trade Regulation and Consumer Protection (DTI-BTRCP).
6. All manufacturers, distributors, importers and retailers found not complying with these requirements shall be penalized in accordance with the provision for liabilities and penalties under R. A. No. 7394, EO 913, and DAO 02:2002.
7. All other orders or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Administrative Order are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.
8. This Order shall take effect 15 days after publication in two newspapers of general circulation or in the Official Gazette.

Accordingly, all parties concerned are hereby informed that copies of said standards and implementing guidelines may be secured from the BPS Information Services.

Approved: May 16, 2005

(Sgd.) JUAN B. SANTOS
Acting Secretary

Recommended by:

(Sgd.) JESUS L. MOTOOMULL
Bureau Director, BPS

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Per DTI NCR Permit No. A1-231 Series of 2005
Promo Period: May 1 to 30,2005

Shopwise 'Summer Weigh In and Win' offers hefty perks

THIS summer, snack lovers get their just desserts with the ultimate snack and beverage festival at Shopwise. The "Summer Weigh In and Win" raffle is an innovative promo that rewards snack purchases with a chance to win cash, plus more tempting treats to beat the seasonal heat.

Ongoing until May 22, every P300 single receipt purchase of snacks, beverages, chocolate and ice cream products plus P50 worth of any participating sponsor product at Shopwise entitles shoppers to join the raffle. Five winners will be drawn weekly at each Shopwise store.

Prizes include cash that will be determined by the winner's actual weight in pounds plus two zeroes. Say the winner weighs 110 pounds. He or she receives P11,000 in cash plus 110 pieces of snack items. The heavier .the winner, the more cash and snack prizes will be given away.

Every Shopwise store is stocked with assorted snack delights perfect for afternoon parties, lunchbox treats, picnic staples, movie and TV goodies and daily merienda.

The Shopwise "Summer Weigh In and Win" promo is also made possible by Jack & Jill, Cadbury, Frito Lays, Oreo, Monde Biscuits, Nescafe, Milo, Coke products, Zesto juices, Tang juices, Pepsi products, Orbits and Hubba Bubba, Toblerone, Mexicorn, Eight O'Clock, Wilkins, Welch Juices, Virgin Cola, Pringles, Legend Chips, Oishi, Del Monte juices, Lipton products and Dole juices.

1ST PHILIPPINE BUILDERS EXCELLENCE AWARDS

EUROTILES NO. 1 CERAMIC TILE MANUFACTURER

Eurotiles was recognized as the 'No 1 ceramic tile manufacturer' in the Philippine Builders Excellence Awards organized by the awards and recognition association of the Philippines (Arap) held April 28 at the Club Filipino in Greenhills. Dr. Zenaida T. Medrano, the awards committee chair (left), handed over the award to Eurotiles Industrial Corp vice president for marketing Rey V. Cordova (2nd from left) and executive vice president and general manager Paquito S. Ngo (3rd from left). Co-presentor of the award is architect Amado E. Tandoc Jr, the executive director of the commission on government and external affairs of the United Architects of the Philippines (UAP).

Unilab chair bullish on RP economy

UNILAB chair Joy Campos-Hess

UNITED Laboratories Inc (Unilab), the country's largest pharmaceutical company, remains bullish about the Philippine economy as evidenced by fresh plans of capital investments in manufacturing facilities worth P3 billion and in information technology (IT). Newly elected Unilab chair Jocelyn Campos-Hess has repeatedly expressed this optimism, signifying the company's support of government initiatives to help promote the country as an investment site.

The Unilab board of directors has recently approved capital outlays amounting to billions of pesos to further modernize Unilab's IT system for greater efficiencies and importantly, for the construction of a state-of-the-art manufacturing plant in Mamplasan, Laguna. Both investment plans are now being implemented.

"These investments signify our confidence in the future and our desire to expand the horizons of Unilab's growth and development," Jocelyn Campos-Hess said.

In addition to these major infrastructure investments, Unilab will continue its expansion programs for its consumer and ethical product categories now with more than 300 brands, as well as in further increasing capabilities in product development, brand management, information and financial systems, and in human resource training and development.

Unilab's faith in the Philippine economy has likewise been reiterated in the various major activities related to the company's 60th anniversary this year. The six decades of nurturing the Filipino family crystallizes Unilab's role and commitment to the millions of Filipinos whom it continues to serve through best value healthcare.

NFWC 9th annual meet

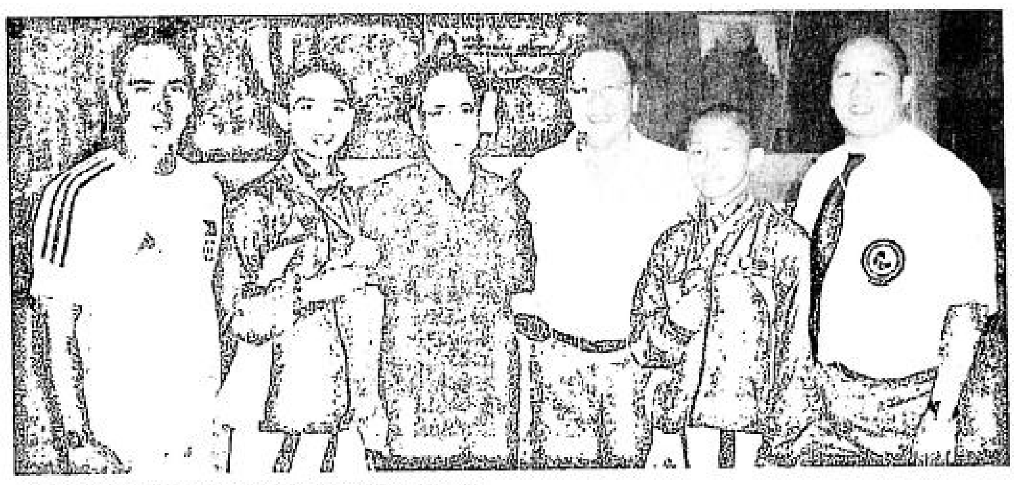
THE NATIONAL Federation of Women's Clubs of the Philippines will hold its 9th annual meeting at the Embassy Ballroom, Traders Hotel, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City on May 21. The event will start with a Holy Mass to be celebrated by Msgr Niko Bautista at 8 a.m.

Highlights of the affair will be a message of guest speaker Katrina Legarda, who will speak on this year's theme "Salute to Filipino Women". The event also coincides with the centennial of the feminist movement in the Philippines. Officers and members of the women's organization all over the country are expected to attend the affair.

The NFWC board is composed of the following: Ester T. Sta. Ana, president; Alberta O. Quinto, 1st vice president; Amelita S. Navarro, 2nd vice president; Estrelita C. Ruiz, 3rd vice president; Maria Olivia B. Pascual, secretary; Virginia A. Manuel, assistant secretary; Luz Moya Borja, treasurer; Aida D. Laggui, assistant treasurer; Dominga R. Mejia, Linda P. Gonzalez, Mary A. Alvior, Cynthia A. Barrit, Fe M. Soriano, Eva D. Ticzon and Maria Rosario G. Veloso, members; Julita C. Benedicto, Leonarda N. Camacho, Minerva G. Laudico, Concordia M. Pascual, Lourdes Casas Quezon, Adelina S. Rodriguez, and Rosario R. Villar, advisers.

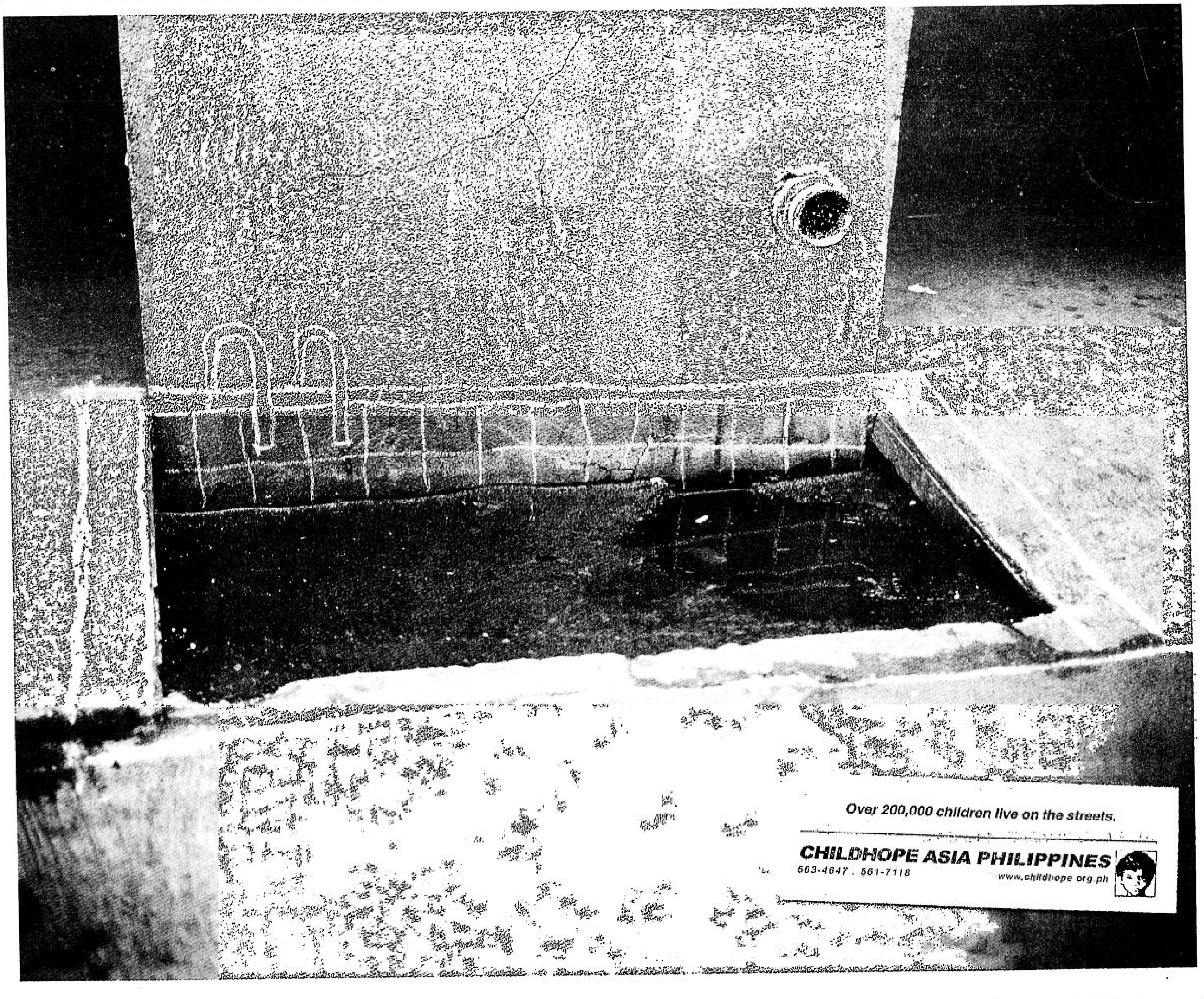
SSA medical mission May 31

FOR IT is time to give ourselves a chance to reach the arms of our fellow countrymen, the School of Saint Anthony will administer its annual Medical Mission spearheaded by the Alumni Association, Parent Count and Socio-Civic Arm of SSA on May 31 with the theme: "24/7 Care Unlimited mula SSA Puso." 1,500 to 1,800 indigents from nearby communities are expected to come. All interested sponsors of medicine, medical supplies, food and professional services are welcome. Get in touch with Dianne, Frida or Jacky at 417-8565 or 939-8735 for inquiries. Furthermore, the members of the SSA Alumni Association are invited to volunteer in this noteworthy event.



KARATEDO CHAMPS FROM AAK

Karatedo by AAK sent two athletes to the 18th PKF National Open Karatedo Championships held at Calamba City, and they both won gold medals in their respective events. Shown, from left, are Juan Carlos 'Chino' Veguillas, PKF national Karatedo coach, Gerardo Rodrigo 'Geric' Anonas, -60kg Kumite gold medalist, Shihan Manuel 'Pocholo' Veguillas, AAK chair and PKF chair emeritus, Eduardo Ponce, PKF president, Norman 'Sonny' Montalvo, -55kg Kumite gold medalist, Richard Anthony 'Ricky' Lim, WKF referee and Ateneo head coach.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Takenaka Naia 3 deal under threat

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE ARROYO administration has given Japanese contractor Takenaka Corp. until the end of the month to agree to its contract terms and ensure that the Ninoy Aquino International Terminal 3 would start operating before Christmas.

Otherwise, the government would have to hire another contractor to finish Takenaka's job, an informed source said in an interview.

Transport officials, however, were hopeful that the Japanese firm would agree to the terms the Arroyo administration had offered to finally start the operations of the new airport terminal that had been bogged down by legal issues.

These terms include a reduction in the price it quoted to extend the runway and complete the terminal project.

The Manila International Airport Authority decided to extend the runway by 1,998 meters to give large aircraft more room to maneuver.

The government also wanted Takenaka to drop its plea for an indemnity provision, which would protect it from any lawsuit that the government might file against Naia 3 contractor, Philippine International Air Terminals Co.

Piatco and its German partner, Fraport, have pending cases against the Philippine government after the Supreme Court nullified their contract for Terminal 3.

The government took over the terminal project late last year and promised to operate the facility in six months, or by June 21.

The project was delayed, however, partly due to additional work that had to be done.

"If Takaneka signs by the end of the month, then there's a good chance of operating the terminal before Christmas. But if we get another contractor, then we are talking of another three months to give some allowance for familiarization with the facility," said the official.

Swiss metals firm invests additional ₱2.86B in Pasar

SWISS metals firm Glencore International AG is investing an additional P2.86 billion in Philippine Associated Smelting and Refining Corp. for the expansion of the latter's copper smelter and refining plants in Isabel, Leyte.

Top executives of Glencore, led by its chair Willy Strothotte and CEO Ivan Glasenberg, called on President Arroyo yesterday to reiterate the company's long-term commitment to the Philippines and its support to the development of the domestic mining sector.

The expansion program covers an increase in the capacity of the smelter to 720,000 metric tons a year of copper concentrates from the current 600,000 mtpy, and an increase in refinery capacity to 215,000 mtpy cathode from the current 172,500 mtpy.

The copper cathodes are used in the manufacture of electronics, and are among the country's top export products.

"The expansion project will not only improve the performance of the plants but will also allow greater protection for the environment," said Pasar president Bruce Anderson.

The smelter expansion is expected to be completed by February 2006, followed by the refinery in November 2006.

Major equipment and new technology that will be installed include:

- Expanded concentrate storage building to accommodate 105,000 mt of copper concentrate, silica fluxes, coal, and coke
- Expanded port facilities able to unload Handymax concentrate vessels
- A new Dore plant
- Expansion of the existing refinery to achieve 215,000 mtpy cathode throughput capacity.

Pasar is the country's only copper smelting and refining firm and is one of the biggest in Asia.

Pasar is majority-owned by a consortium comprised of Glencore and local investors.

The consortium acquired 90 percent of the government's shares and all its receivables in Pasar through a competitive bidding in 1999.

Since its entry into Pasar, the consortium has infused a total of P2.7 billion into the company.

Gov't ...

From page B1

For January to April, the budget deficit amounted to P60.127 billion, 7 percent lower than the P64.671 billion recorded in the first four months of last year. Revenue for the four months ending April amounted to P255.423 billion, while expenditures reached P315.55 billion.

Government borrowings for the period reached P103.266 billion, or 30.73 percent higher than last year's figure of P78.99 billion. This was mainly because the government had frontloaded some of its intended borrowings for the whole year in the early part of the year.

Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima said the P3.3-billion budget surplus in April would likely bring down the whole year deficit figure to P151.25 billion, way below the ceiling of P180 billion.

BDO BANCO DE ORO

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS

Dear Shareholder:

Please be informed that the Annual Meeting of Stockholders of BANCO DE ORO UNIVERSAL BANK will be held at the Rizal Ballroom "A", 2/F Makati Shangri-La, Ayala Avenue corner Makati Avenue, Makati City on 27 May 2005, at 2:00 P.M.

The Agenda for the meeting is as follows:

1. Call to Order
2. Proof of Notice and Determination of Existence of Quorum
3. Certification of Quorum
4. Approval of the minutes of the annual meeting of stockholders held on 25 June 2004
5. President's Report
6. Approval and Ratification of all Actions of the Board of Directors and Management during their term of office
7. Election of Directors
8. Appointment of External Auditor
9. Other Matters
10. Adjournment

The Board of Directors has fixed the close of business on 15 March 2005 as the record date for the determination of stockholders entitled to notice and to vote at said meeting. Accordingly, only stockholders of record as of the 15 March 2005 will be entitled to vote during the said meeting.

If you intend to be represented by proxy, please submit the accomplished proxy form to the Office of the Corporate Secretary no later than 13 May 2005. A forum for the validation of proxies shall be held on 18 May 2005.

ANTONIO C. PACIS
Corporate Secretary

LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES
Ang Bangkong May Damdaming-Bayan
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Tel. Nos. 522-0000; 526-0100 connecting all departments

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Land Bank of the Philippines invites interested suppliers who are (a) duly licensed Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships; or (b) 60% Filipino owned partnerships/corporations; or (c) two or more suppliers forming into joint ventures jointly and severally liable; or (d) cooperatives duly registered with the CDA; with largest single contract, similar to the items for bid, for the last 2 years, at least equal to 50% of the approved budget; and with Net Financial Contracting Capacity (NFCC) at least equal to the approved budget, to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following items:

ITB No.	Item / Description	Approved Budget	Source of Funds
2005-144	100 units Passbook Printer Plus: Four (4)-Year Maintenance Package (inclusive of cost on labor, parts and incidental charges for travel and lodging)	P 5,284,100.00 636,000.00 P 5,920,100.00	LBP Funds

Bidding of the above requirements is scheduled on **June 15, 2005 at 1:00 p.m.** and the Bid Documents may be obtained from the Procurement Division of the General Services Department, 25th Floor, LANDBANK Plaza, M. H. del Pilar corner Dr. Quintos Streets, Malate, Manila, **upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P1,000.00.**

Interested suppliers are requested to attend the Pre-Bid Conference scheduled on **June 2, 2005** at the 25th Floor, Conference Room, LANDBANK Plaza, Malate, Manila.

All particulars relative to the **Qualification/Eligibility, Bid Bond, Performance Bond, Pre-bid Conference, Bid Evaluation and Award of Contract** shall be governed by the provisions of **RA 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.**

Only those bidders who comply with the Bank's requirements shall be eligible to participate in the bidding.

LANDBANK reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to declare the bidding a failure or waive any defect or informality and to accept bids as may be considered most advantageous to the Bank.

COMMITTEE ON BIDS AND AWARDS

(PDI - May 20 & 22, 2005)

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MODEL	DOWN PAYMENT	DAILY RATE FOR 12 MONTHS	BALLOON FINANCING
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325i Executive	P897,684	P951	60% balloon financing after 12 months
325i M Sport	P923,327	P979	60% balloon financing after 12 months

*Balloon payment terms are also available for 24, 36 and 48 months.
* Subject to bank approval.

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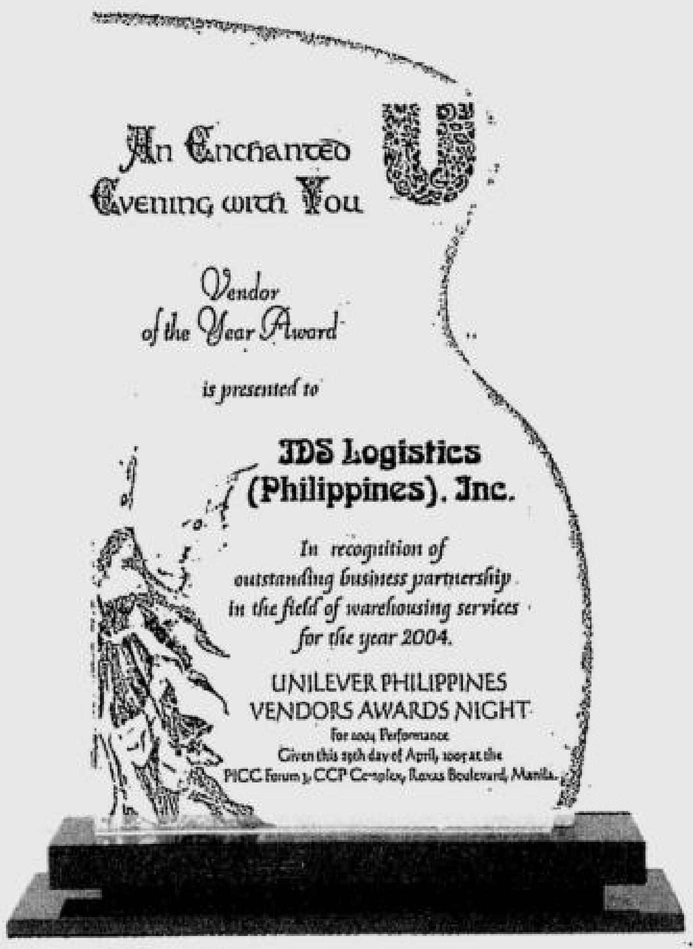

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INVITATION TO BID

The Development Bank of the Philippines will receive sealed bids on May 31, 2005, 2:00 p.m., Auditorium, of the DBP Head Office, Sen. Gil Puyat Ave. cor. Makati Ave., Makati City for the following properties on CASH BASIS

CODE	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	MINIMUM SELLING PRICE
REAL ESTATE			
METRO MANILA			
COM-7	No. 19, Road 7, Pag-asa, Quezon City	240 m² residential/commercial lot (TCT No. N-209551) with bldg. & imp.	P 5,500,000.00
BATAAN			
	Sta. Monica Homes, Sitio Wiswis, Camaya, Mariveles	Residential lots with bldg. & imp.:	
AM-ED-057	Lot - 8 Blk - 8	50 m² TCT No. T-229471	P 175,600.00
AM-ED-058	12 9	50 m² TCT No. T-229472	P 186,200.00
AM-ED-059	14 20	50 m² TCT No. T-229492	P 182,500.00
AM-ED-060	27 20	50 m² TCT No. T-229480	P 175,000.00
BATANGAS			
AM-MC-061	Bo. Bawi, Padre Garcia	4,545 m² agro-industrial lot (TCT T-127899) with bldg. & imp.	P 2,464,600.00
BULACAN			
AM-ED-062	Camia St., Manzano Subd., Brgy. Ibayo, Marilao	294 m² residential lot (TCT T-351876)	P 1,176,000.00
CAVITE			
	Philhomes Ville I, Brgy. Toclong, Kawit	Residential lots with bldg. & imp.:	
AM-ED-063	Lot - 20 Blk - 11	32 m² TCT No. T-1101809	P 318,900.00
AM-MC-064	7 11	32 m² TCT No. T-1101808	P 223,800.00
LAGUNA			
	St. Joseph Village 6, Phase I, Cabuyao	Residential lots with bldg. & imp.:	
AM-MC-065	Lot - 3 Blk - 11	40 m² TCT No. T-605765	P 187,600.00
AM-ED-066	6 5	40 m² TCT No. T-605719	P 209,200.00
AM-PY-067	8 8	46 m² TCT No. T-605767	P 204,400.00
AM-MC-068	10 8	40 m² TCT No. T-605766	P 212,100.00
AM-MC-069	16 8	40 m² TCT No. T-599208	P 187,600.00
AM-MC-070	27 1	40 m² TCT No. T-605764	P 196,000.00
AM-CP-071	Lot 23 Blk 2 San Pablo St., San Carlos Village, Brgy. Banay-Banay, Cabuyao	66 m2 residential lot (TCT T-536564) with bldg. & imp.	P 252,100.00
AM-CP-072	Lot 53, Blk 24, So. Fairway Homes Classic, Landayan, San Pedro	45 m² residential lot (TCT No. T-605718) with bldg. & imp.	P 330,000.00
RIZAL			
AM-JA-073	San Jose, Montalban (now Rodriguez)	10,000 m² agro-residential lot (TCT No. 454354)	P 4,790,700.00

BIDDERS ARE REMINDED:

1. To inspect the properties to determine their actual condition before the bidding;
2. To submit in DBP's official bid form available at the AMD-Acquired Assets, 2nd Floor, DBP Head Office during office hours; and
3. To be on time. No bids will be accepted once unsealing of the bids commences. The sale shall be subject to other terms and conditions which may be imposed by the Bank.

DBP RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITY THEREIN, OR TO ACCEPT SUCH BIDS AS MAY BE CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE BANK. THE DECISION OF THE BANK IS FINAL AND BINDING.

For inquiries, please call telephone numbers: 892-1566/893-7172 or 818-9511 local 2218/2252 for Code starting with AM; 926-1686 and 920-4909 for Code starting with COM.

ASSET MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

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SENIOR AUTOCAD OPERATOR INTERIOR OR DESIGNER CALL LEN AT # 7445065

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HERITAGE PARK
FORT BONIFACIO
Funeral Home and Crematory
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OBITUARIES

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SUCAT
HOLY CROSS
DASMARIÑAS
CEBU
DAVAO
(632) 815 1879 or 90
(632) 893 8374 to 77

Standard Chartered

In Memory
of
GERARDO JOSE "JERRY" S. LOPEZ

The Management and Staff of Standard Chartered Bank deeply mourn the passage of **GERARDO JOSE "JERRY" S. LOPEZ**, Head of SCB Philippines' Large Local Corporates, Client Relationships, on Sunday, May 15, 2005 after a brave battle with cancer.

We extend our heartfelt sympathies and condolences to Jerry's devoted and loving wife Mary Geraldine, and his beloved sons, Joaquin and Sebastian.

Jerry was a seasoned and dedicated Senior Banker with a vibrant spirit and generous heart. Those of us who have had the privilege of knowing him are inspired by his strength of character, humbled by his courage and deeply touched by his concern for others even under the most trying circumstances.

The quality of his relationships with his colleagues, business partners and clients speaks eloquently of his enduring success as a Banker and far exceeds the magnitude of his contribution to the Bank.

He will be greatly missed by all of us.

Message of Thanks

† Teodoro Chan Borlongan

Today, May 20, 2005, is Ted's 40th day since that fateful day, April 11, in Loyola Marikina when Ted sacrificed himself for the sake of justice, truth, and compassion.

Ted's wife, Dolly, and their children, Kathy, Jonathan, Christopher, and Stephie together with his siblings Jun and Biya, Mario and Cora, Jack and Puchi, Baby and Kim, his Dad-in-law, Eduardo S. Enriquez and his Mom-in-law, Melanie V. Enriquez, and the Borlongan and Enriquez families would like to thank everyone who prayed with us, condoled with us, supported us in the most traumatic and devastating time of our lives.

Masses for Ted will be offered today …..

where Ted was baptized
Sta. Teresita Parish .... 6:00 a.m., 7:00 a.m., 6:00 p.m.
Kanlaon St., Sta. Mesa Heights, Quezon City

where Ted's parish was from birth until he and Dolly got married
National Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes ..... 5:30 a.m., 6:30 a.m., 7:30 a.m., 6:00 p.m.
Kanlaon St. corner N.S. Amoranto St. (formerly Retiro), Quezon City

where Ted studied from Prep to College: Ateneo de Manila University
Ateneo Rockwell Chapel .... 12:15 p.m.

where Ted and Dolly were married
Santuario de San Antonio Parish .... 6:15 a.m., 7:30 a.m., 12:15 p.m., 6:00 p.m.
McKinley Rd., Forbes Park, Makati City

where Kathy, Jonathan, Christopher and Stephie were baptized
Mary the Queen Parish .... 6:00 a.m., 7:00 a.m., 6:00 p.m.
Madison, San Juan

where Ted served God through our community
Christ the King Parish .... 6:00 a.m., 7:00 a.m., 6:00 p.m., 7:00 p.m.
Greenmeadows, Quezon City

Let our prayer rise up like incense before You . . . Psalm 141.2

We would like to request everyone to light a candle, burn incense and pray Ted's prayer today to give Ted a send off as he rises up *"to sing praise and glory forever to God in God's house."*

Ted's Prayer, his gift for everyone ….

God asked me to wait; I endured. God asked me to do right; I struggled for what was right.
I kept strong outside, but stood alone. My unbearable fear, burden and pain for the sake of others
and my family, I shared only with God.
O where is Justice? Where is Truth? Where is Compassion? It is Your face Lord,
I truly seek. If not now, then after this lifetime. If not here, then in Your kingdom.
I finished my race; I fought my good fight. I did not give up; I kept my faith.
Yet death may still bear meaning or purpose for others, if not our lives.
Lord, look upon us with mercy and love in our last moments of human frailty.
Let me sing You praise and glory forever in Your house.

In loving memory

On the first death anniversary of

ELVIRA O. ADORABLE
1945-2004

Masses will be offered tomorrow May 21, 2005 at the following:

Sto. Rosario Church, Pacita 1, San Pedro, Laguna - 7:30 p. m.
San Nicolas de Tolentino Church, Cabatuan, Iloilo - 5:30 a.m.
Everest Hills Memorial Park, Muntinlupa City - 11:00 a. m.
St. John Bosco Parish, Makati City
(intentions are included in all masses)

"Eternal life
will swallow
up that which
can die. God
made us for
this very
reason and
He has given
us the
Spirit as a
guarantee
that we will
live again."
2 Corinthians 5:4-5

"One thing I ask of the Lord this I seek: To dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life."

GUILLERMO P. INCIONG, SR.

Oct. 29, 1921 - May 17, 2005
His wife **Emilia** and their ten children request prayers for his eternal repose.

His remains lie in state at the family home, #2 T. Azucena St., San Pablo City, Laguna.

Interment to be announced later.

DEATH NOTICE

FELIPE R. ALEJANDRINO

Died on May 17, 2005

His remains lie in state at Golden Meadows, Marcos Hi-way, Antipolo City.

Cremation will be on May 21, 2005 at Loyola Memorial, Marikina City.

For the needs of your departed Loved Ones, the following establishments can help you.

METRO MANILA
• LAS PIÑAS
FUNERARIA FILIPINAS
187 Real St., Zapote Alabang, Las Piñas;
Tels. 873-0507; 873-0024
• MAKATI
DON BOSCO CHAPELS
Pasay Road, Makati City; Tel. 894-5932 to 34
FUNERARIA FILIPINAS
865 J.P. Rizal St., Poblacion, Makati City;
Tels. 890-3556, 899-8191
LOYOLA MEMORIAL CHAPELS
EDSA cor. Bernardino St., Guadalupe, Makati City;
Tels. 895-1011 to 19
MALABED FUNERAL SERVICE
3-A Coronado St., Guadalupe Viejo, Makati City; Tel. 890-63-18
SANTUARIO DE SAN ANTONIO PARISH
Forbes Park, Makati City, Tel. Nos. 843-6838/30;
Fax No. 843-9223
ST. ALPHONSUS MARY DE LIGOURI PARISH
Magallanes Village, Makati City; Tels. 852-8228, 852-7284
• MALABON
FLORESCO FUNERAL HOME
219 Gen. Luna St., Concepcion, Malabon, Metro Manila;
Tels. 2812963, 2813034, 2810522
• MANDALUYONG
SANTUARIO DE SAN JOSE PARISH
East Greenhills, Mandaluyong City; Telefax 724-4139; 725-2044
• MANILA
DULCE MEMORIAL SERVICES
Jose Abad Santos Ave. cor. Dinalupihan St., Manuguit, Manila
Tels. 712-5102; 741-5125; 741-5133, Fax No. 711-3064
LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
1501 C.M. Recto Ave. cor. T. Mapua, Manila;
Tels. 711-6931 to 35, 732-4795; 732-2827
POPULAR MEMORIAL CHAPELS, INC.
2141 Rizal Ave., Sta. Cruz, Manila;
Tel. Nos. 254-0867, 254-0839
ST. MARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL
16-15 G. Tuazon cor. Loreto St., Sampaloc, Manila;
Tels. 749-3679; 781-1772
UNIVERSAL FUNERAL SERVICE & MEMORIAL CHAPELS
2028 Rizal Ave., Sta. Cruz, Manila; Tels. 493-4458; 493-4540
WELINGTON FUNERAL SERVICES
1511 Gen. Luna St., Paco, Manila; Tel. 302-5447
• MARIKINA
ERIC SANTIAGO MEMORIAL CHAPELS
26 Bayanbayan Ave., Concepcion I, Marikina City;
Tels. 942-6044, 475-1177
F. SANTIAGO MEMORIAL HOMES
9 V. Gomez & 13 V. Gomez St., San Roque, Marikina City;
Tels. 646-1725 or 646-1730
LOYOLA MEMORIAL PARK CHAPELS
& CREMATORY SERVICES
Loyola Memorial Park, A. Bonifacio Avenue,
Tañong, Marikina City
Tels. 941-3196 to 98, 941-3676, Telefax 941-3577
PAKET SANTIAGO MEMORIAL HOMES
13 V. Gomez St., San Roque, Marikina City;
Tels. 646-1725; 646-1730
• PARAÑAQUE
HOLY TRINITY MEMORIAL CHAPELS
Dr. A. Santos Ave., Sucat Rd., Sucat, Parañaque City;
Tels. 825-1296, 825-1291, Telefax 825-1314
LA FUNERARIA PAZ, SUCAT, INC.
Dr. A. Santos Ave., Sucat, Parañaque,
Tels. 820-1592, 825-9947; 825-8635
LINCOLN MEMORIAL SERVICES, INC.
Ground Floor, JEMP Bldg., J. Cabarrus cor. Monserrat Sts.,
Phase I, BF Commercial Center, Parañaque, Metro Manila
RIZAL FUNERAL HOMES
8187 Dr. A. Santos Ave., Sucat, Parañaque City
Tels. 826-1376, 826-9682, (0915) 712-1220
• PASAY
RIZAL FUNERAL HOMES
438 Cementina St., Pasay City; Tels. 831-1204
VERONICA MEMORIAL HOMES
Official NBI Morgue 517-A Arnaiz St., Pasay City;
Tels. 831-3797, 844-7846; 843-1801; 845-4836
• PASIG
ARLINGTON EAST THE GARDEN CHAPELS
C. Raymundo St. cor. Mercedes Ave.,
San Miguel Ave., Pasig City
Tels. 747-8599, 747-8600 • Telefax 641-1760
FUNERARIA ANGEL QUIOGUE
No. 67 Pasig Boulevard Extension, Pasig City;
Tels. 641-7909; 641-1735
• QUEZON CITY
ARLINGTON MEMORIAL CHAPEL
12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City;
Tels. 715-1025, 715-1031, 715-1027
LA FUNERARIA LAWRENCE BAQUIRAN
#23 Pato St., Project 2, Quezon City; Tel. 434-3258
LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
143 G. Araneta Ave. cor. Kaliraya St., Quezon City
Tels. 749-3806 to 11; 712-3001; 743-6502 or 05
NACIONAL MEMORIAL HOMES
264 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City;
Tels. 713-5231 to 35; 714-0867, 714-0868
ST. PETER FUNERAL HOMES
296 Quezon Ave., Quezon City; Tels. 372-5064; 410-9286/87
• TAGUIG-PATEROS
FUNERARIA ANGEL QUIOGUE
M. Almeda St., Pateros, Metro Manila;
Tels. 642-3010, 633-3602
GARDEN OF MEMORIES MEMORIAL PARK
Calsadang Bago, Pateros, Metro Manila. Tels. 642-6181 to 82
HERITAGE PARK
Bayani Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila
Tels. (DL) 845-2341 to 42; (TL) 845-2334 to 38 loc. 110/112

PROVINCIAL
• ALBAY
LIGÑON HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS, INC.
Buglong Road, Legaspi City.
Tels. (052) 820-0188, 0917-2074152
• BACOLOD
ROLLING HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
Ground Flr. Rolling Hills Chapel, 27th-Lacson St., Mandalagan,
Bacolod City; Tel. 433-7132
• BAGUIO
LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
79 Naguilian Rd., Baguio City;
Tel. (074) 443-3337; (074) 442-3117
• BATAAN
SANTUARIO GARDEN & CHAPELS
Talisay Road, Balanga City, Bataan
Tels. (047) 2370643 • 7911766
• BULACAN
FUNERARIA TUASON
Poblacion, San Miguel, Bulacan 3011;
Tels. (044) 764-0281; 678-0266; (0917) 895-0603
• CAVITE
FUNERARIA SAMSON
145 Bayan Luma, Imus, Cavite; Tels. (046) 471-3375; 471-2675
LA FUNERARIA SAPINOSO
G. Tirona St., Imus, Cavite;
Tels. (046) 471-3386; (046) 471-4417; (046) 571-1978
• CEBU
COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
Nivel Hills, Lahug, Cebu City; Tels. 231-0721; 231-3192
CEBU ROLLING HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
Cebu Branch: A.S. Fortuna Street,
Banilad, Mandaue City, Cebu;
Tels. 346-2543; 346-2601
• DAVAO
COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
Camus Ext. cor. J. Abad Santos, Davao City;
Tels. (082) 227-1201; 227-1258
• ILOCOS
LA FUNERARIA LAWRENCE BAQUIRAN
#27 Crisologo St., Vigan, Ilocos Sur, Tel. 722-2730;
Cell (0917) 5680136, (0917) 5680145
• LAGUNA
SAN RAMON FUNERAL HOMES
2020 Brgy. Dita, Sta. Rosa, Laguna
Tels. (049) 837-5652; 531-4142 Fax (049) 531-4989
ZUASOLA FUNERAL HOMES
Brgy. Del Remedio, San Pablo City, Laguna
Tels. (049) 562-1668; 800-2914 Cel. No. (0917) 5010963
• PAMPANGA
FUNERARIA PANGILINAN
Santo Entierro cor. P. Burgos St., Lourdes Sur, Angeles City
Tels. (045) 888-2959, (045) 322-5247
• RIZAL
OUR LADY OF PEACE MEMORIAL PARK
CHAPEL & SERVICES, INC.
No. 6 Carigma St., Antipolo City 1870
Tel. No. 697-0782, 697-0026, 650-7426, Fax 697-2764
F. SANTIAGO MEMORIAL HOMES
Guitnang Bayan, San Mateo, Rizal.
Tels. 649-5949, 942-4460
HOLY GARDENS MEMORIAL PARK
Third Level, Unishoppe Complex, Quezon Ave., Angono, Rizal
Tels. 651-1711, 651-0737
MARIAN MEMORIAL CHAPELS
Marcos Hiway, Antipolo, Rizal; Tels. 645-1855
• ZAMBALES
DALLUAY MEMORIAL SERVICES
#42 Upper Kalaklan, Olongapo City
Tels. (047) 222-3605; (047) 811-1086; (047) 222-4512;
(047) 224-2014
OLONGAPO MEMORIAL PARK
Del Rosario St., Tabacuhan, Sta. Rita, Olongapo
Tel. No. (047) 223-1692

"In peace
I shall both
lie down
and sleep
for You
alone Lord
make me
secure."
(Psalm 4:9)

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OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate ❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT
MESSAGE OF THANKS • DEATH ANNIVERSARY
REQUIEMS • FREE OBIT DESIGN

TransCo
National Transmission Corporation

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

PD REF. NO. PB-050405-PP0026 / PR NO. ITASD-05-009059

The **NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION, BIDS AND AWARD COMMITTEE FOR HEAD OFFICE**, wishes to invite interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid on the item listed below:

Quantity	Item Description	PR No.	Approved Budget
1 LOT	DESIGN, SUPPLY, DELIVERY, INSTALLATION AND COMMISSIONING OF 48 V DC RECTIFIER/CHARGER IN PARALLEL REDUNDANT SYSTEM FOR FIVE (5) LUZON REPEATER STATIONS	ITASD-05-00905	P12,200,000.00

1. Bid Documents will be available for issuance starting **May 10, 2005 to June 08, 2005** from 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. at the BAC Secretariat Office, National Transmission Corporation, Materials Management Division (MMD), Ground Floor, TransCo Main Bldg., Power Center, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City upon payment of non-refundable fee of **One Thousand Two Hundred Twenty Pesos (P1,220.00)** per set.
2. Deadline for submission, receipt and opening of bids shall be on or before **2:00 P.M. of June 09, 2005** at the Admin Conference Room, Ground Floor, TransCo Main Bldg., Power Center, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City. If the date is declared non-working day, the new deadline for submission shall be announced through a Bid Bulletin. Submission of documents must be clear, legible and readable. Late submission and/or incomplete bid documents shall not be accepted.
3. Pre-bid conference will be held on **May 26, 2005 at 2:00 P.M.** at the Admin Conference Room, Ground Floor, TransCo Main Bldg., Power Center, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City.
4. All particulars relative to the eligibility, bidding, evaluation of bids and award of contract shall be governed by the Implementing Rules and Regulations-A of Republic Act 9184.
5. TransCo reserves the right to reject any Application for Eligibility or all bids without offering any reasons, waive any required formality therein, and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the corporation.
6. Additional information shall be furnished upon request. All communications should be addressed to the undersigned at the aforementioned address.

(Sgd.) **ANTONIO G. LABAYANI**
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – May 14 & 20, 2005)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
SECURITY & EXHANGE COMMISSION
SEC Bldg., EDSA, Greenhills,
City of Mandaluyong, MM

1898 - 1998
100
KALAYAAN

SEC ADVISORY/WARNING RE PHIL-ASIA CARE PLANS INC.

May 12, 2005

With reference to the resolution of this Court of Appeals dated August 29, 2003, in CA G.R. SP No. 73009 ("Phil-Asia Care Plans, Inc. vs. Securities and Exhange Commission"), the Commission wishes to inform the public that based on its records, PHIL-ASIA CARE PLANS, INC. has no more pre-need plans to sell since December 31, 1993 and that no dealers' license has been issued since 1996.

Hence, the company is no longer authorized to solicit investments from the public and/or operate any branch/es other than to service plan holders.

Any new sales that may have been entered into by the company should be reported immediately to the SEC Compliance and Enforcement Department at telephone no. 721-5047.

For the Commission,

(Sgd.) **GERARD M. LUKBAN**
Commission Secretary

(PDI - May 20, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Labor and Employment
OVERSEAS WORKERS WELFARE ADMINISTRATION
OWWA Center Bldg., F.B. Harrison St. cor. 7th St., Pasay City
Tel. Nos. 891-7601 to 24

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

ITB 05-05

1. The **OVERSEAS WORKERS WELFARE ADMINISTRATION** through its Bids and Awards Committee invites all interested prospective bidders/suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the provision of **Medical Healthcare Insurance for 335 OWWA officials and employees.**
2. The Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) is **Php5,025,000.00.**
3. Bid documents will be available for issuance beginning **May 19, 2005** (Mondays to Thursdays) from 7:30 am to 5:30 pm from the BAC Secretariat, 3rd Floor, OWWA Center Bldg., FB Harrison cor. 7th St., Pasay City, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Php800.00.
4. Deadline of submission of eligibility documents and bid envelopes shall be on **June 14, 2005 at 2:00 pm** at the said address.
5. Interested prospective bidders may obtain further information from the BAC Secretariat at these numbers: 833-0113 or 833-1010 (telefax).
5. A pre-bid conference shall be held on **June 01, 2005 at 2:00 pm** at the OWWA Library, 5th Floor, OWWA Center Building.
7. The public bidding process shall be governed by Republic Act No. 9184 otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.
8. OWWA reserves the right to reject any or all bids or any part thereof, to waive any informality therein and/or minor defect in the bids received and to award to the bidder whose proposal is the most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **ALBERT Q. VALENCIANO**
BAC Chairperson

(PDI–May 20 & 26, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Finance
BUREAU OF CUSTOMS
PORT OF MANILA
Customs District II-A
South Harbor, Manila

18 May 2005

NOTICE OF SALE

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 2601, other related provisions of the Tariff and Customs Code of the Philippines and CMO 5-2003, there will be a PUBLIC AUCTION SALE (Sealed Bidding) to be conducted at the Office of Auction and Cargo Disposal Division, Room No. 304, Customhouse Bldg., South Harbor, Port Area, Manila on **May 31, 2005** (Tuesday) of the hereunder listed various items. Said items shall be available for public viewing on **May 30, 2005** (Monday).

In the event of failed bidding, the same shall be offered in a second auction to be held on the third business day following the first failed bidding at the same time and place with no reduction of the floor price and without the need for further advertisement, except as to perishable items, which may be auctioned again on the following business day. When at least two of the sealed bids submitted in an auction fall within ten (10%) percent of the highest bid, the same should be above the floor price (clustering). Those in the cluster shall immediately go into an open bidding with the highest sealed bid serving as the new floor price of the lot being sold.

The winning bidders shall be required to pay 50% of the bid price either in cash and/or manager's check (Payable to PNB only) at the end of the bidding. For meritorious reason, said bidder may be allowed to make such payment not later than two (2) hours from the awarding of the won bid. The remaining balance of 50% of the bid price shall be paid within the next business day.

IMPORTANT:

Only registered bidders who have paid the Registration Fee of Two Thousand (P2,000) Pesos and Cash Bond (Refundable) of Twenty Thousand Pesos (P20,000) are eligible to participate in the auction sale.

Registration starts at 1:30 p.m. and will close at 2:00 p.m.

For further inquiry, please contact the following telephone number 528-60-00 local 459.

LOT #	DESCRIPTION	FLOOR PRICE
034–05	One (1) Lot of Poultry Slaughtering Equipment composed of 6 pkgs. knockdown parts 1,020 kgs.	P122,400.00
035-05	4,300 kgs. Mess Wire with Installation Board	P27,950.00
036-05	341 ctns. Coco (850 sets MC-D10 & MC-KB10 + One (1) set Software	P21,250.00
037-05	One (1) lot of various items & scrap replacement parts	P260,000.00

(Sgd.) **Atty. RONNIE C. SILVESTRE**
District Collector
Port of Manila

(PDI – May 20, 2005)

NOTICE OF LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

Notice is hereby given that following an Order issued under Section 8 of the Organised and Serious Crimes Ordinance, Cap 455 of the Laws of Hong Kong the assets of the Respondents in Hong Kong were confiscated. On 5th May 2005 the Restraint Order over the assets of the Respondents HCMP 4221 of 2002 was then discharged.

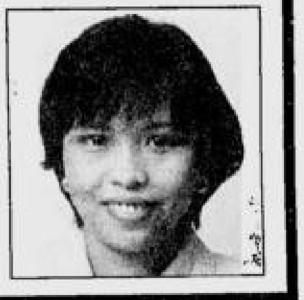
Amador PASTRANA Philippines passport ZZ017001 Date of birth 4th May 1972.	Respondent 1
Alpha Company Ltd Company No 15011	Respondent 2
Jindell Investment Ltd Company No 367520	Respondent 3
Jupiter Advisory Ltd Company No 407452	Respondent 4
First Pacific Company Ltd Company No 7009	Respondent 5
Systems International Ltd Company No 105043B	Respondent 6
Calimax Enterprises Ltd Company No 407451	Respondent 7
Cyplus Company Ltd Company No 114160B	Respondent 8
Jopio Company Ltd Company No 16592	Respondent 9
Nobuko Investments Ltd Company No 371740	Respondent 10
Prudence International Ltd Company No 16156	Respondent 11
Wains International Company Ltd Company No 391025	Respondent 12
Moneycare International Ltd Company No 407450	Respondent 13
Chamomile International Ltd Company No 741159	Respondent 14
Highstone Investments Ltd Company No 112158B	Respondent 15
Sabre International Ltd Company No 6470	Respondent 16
Vantage International Management Group Inc. Company No 8403	Respondent 17
Union Trading Ltd Company No 15014	Respondent 18
Novelle Investment Partners Ltd (Bahamas) Company No 81563B	Respondent 19
United Resources Asset Management Inc SEC Reg No A200005310	Respondent 20
Allied European Holdings Ltd Company No 8313	Respondent 21

Any person or company who is a Respondent can obtain a copy of the order from either Ma. Elmira A. Alconaba, Assistant Director, Compliance and Enforcement Department Securities and Exchange Commission, SEC Building, EDSA, Greenhills, City of Mandaluyong, Metro Manila, or Detective Senior Inspector David COPE, Financial Investigations Division, Hong Kong Police, 21st Floor, Arsenal House West Wing, Police Headquarters, Arsenal Street, Wan Chai, Hong Kong. HCMP 4221 of 2002 refers.

(PDI – May 19, 20 & 21, 2005)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Be it known that there is an outstanding warrant of arrest for Ms. Bernardita A. Medel of 5th Street, Our Lady's Village, Bitano, Legazpi City, whose picture appears below, that was issued by Branch 6, Regional Trial Court of Legazpi City in Criminal Case No. 10420 for Qualified Theft.



Please direct any information leading to her arrest or whereabouts to:

MR. FRANCISCO BACIERTO, JR.
Equitable PCI Tower 1,
corner dela Costa
and Makati Avenue, Makati City
Telephone Nos. 878-4425 or 840-7625

(PDI--May 20, 2005)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given to the public that official receipts of **ZUELLIG PHARMA CORP.** bearing Series OR Nos 473553 – 473600 have been lost. Any transaction covered by those OR# shall not be honored by the company.

ZUELLIG PHARMA
Your Market Partner in Distribution

Malugay St. Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Region 02 Mabini, Santiago City
Tel. No. (078) 682-8529 or Fax (078) 682-8247

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The **National Food Authority (NFA)**, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites your firm to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder handling services;

LOT NO.	PROVINCE	EXISTING APPROVED HANDLING RATE/ BAG/MOVE	ESTIMATED VOLUME TO BE HANDLED	ESTIMATED AMOUNT OF HANDLING
1	Cagayan	P1.30	209,000	P1,435,200.00
2	Allacapan	P1.30	81,200	P513,500.00
3	Kalinga	P1.30	78,900	P521,820.00
4	Isabela	P1.30	619,400	P4,218,240.00
5	Nueva Vizcaya	P1.36	223,800	P1,077,120.00
6	Quirino	P1.35	102,400	P586,440.00
7	Ifugao	P1.20	71,200	P433,440.00
8	Mt. Province	P1.25	90,000	562,500.00
9	NPGC	P1.30	127,300	P565,760.00
TOTAL			1,603,200	P9,914,020.00

Eligibility Requirements is available for issuance by the RBAC Secretariat at the NFA Regional Office, Santiago City on May 19 - June 3, 2005 upon submission of letter of intent by the prospective bidders.

Only eligible bidders are allowed to participate in this bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening/ Preliminary examination shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria as well as Post-qualification of the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bid (LCRB) shall be conducted, all in accordance with the IRR-A of RA 9184.

Please be guided with the hereunder schedule of activities.

Activities	Schedule
1. Submission of Letters of Intent and Application for Eligibility	May 19 - June 3, 2005
2. Issuance of Bid Documents	May 23 - June 10, 2005
3. Pre-bid Conference	June 15, 2005
4. Submission and Opening of Bids	June 22, 2005
5. Bid Evaluation	June 23-24, 2005
6. Post-qualification	June 27 - July 5, 2005
7. Award of Contract	July 5, 2005

Bid Document will be available only to eligible bidders upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Two Hundred Fifty (P250.00) pesos to the NFA Cashier.

The NFA assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

(Sgd.) **MARIO M. GONZALES**
BAC Chairman

(PDI - May 20 & 27, 2005)

TransCo
National Transmission Corporation

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

PD Ref. No.: PB050427-RM0037 / PR No.: SCD-05-0010055

The **NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION, BIDS AND AWARD COMMITTEE (TRANSCO – BAC) FOR HEAD OFFICE**, wishes to invite interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid on the items listed below:

Schedule	Qty.	Item Description	PR No.	Approved Budget
I	1 Lot	Supply of Labor and Materials for the Waterproofing of PMC Building of System Operations.	SCD-05-0010055	P 2,500,000.00
II	1 Lot	Supply and Delivery of Labor and Materials for the Waterproofing of Five (5) Repeater Stations	ITASD-05-010125	P 868,114.50

1. The Bidding Documents will be available for issuance starting **May 20, 2005 to June 20, 2005** from 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. at the BAC Secretariat Office, National Transmission Corporation, Materials Management Division (MMD), Ground Floor, TransCo Main Bldg., Power Center, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City upon payment of non-refundable fee of **Five Hundred Pesos (P500.00)** per set.
2. Deadline for submission, receipt and opening of bids shall be on or before **10 A.M. of June 21, 2005** at the Admin Conference Room, Ground Floor, TransCo Main Bldg., Power Center, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City. If the date is declared non-working day, the deadline for submission shall be rescheduled on a later date that will be announced through a bid bulletin. Submission of documents must be clear, legible and readable. Late submission and/or incomplete bid documents shall not be accepted.
3. Pre-bid conference will be held on **June 9, 2005 at 10:00 A.M.** at the Admin Conference Room, Ground Floor, TransCo Main Bldg., Power Center, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City.
4. All particulars relative to the eligibility, bidding, evaluation of bids and award of contract shall be governed by the Implementing Rules and Regulations-A of Republic Act 9184.
5. TransCo reserves the right to reject any Application for Eligibility or all bids without offering any reasons, waive any required formality therein, and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the government.
6. Additional information shall be furnished upon request. All communications should be addressed to the undersigned at the aforementioned address.

(Sgd.) **ANTONIO G. LABAYANI**
Chairman, Bids and Award Committee

(PDI-May 20, 2005)

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- Knows how to read plan
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- HARDWORKING

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JOB Market

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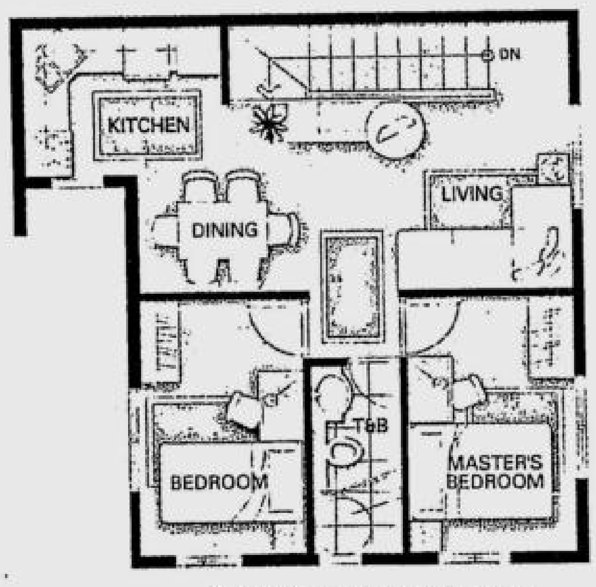
Raise a family upstairs.

LAGUNA BELAIR SHOPHOUSES:
Do Business at Home


KITCHEN
DN
DINING
LIVING
T&B
BEDROOM
MASTER'S BEDROOM

TYPICAL 2ND FLOOR PLAN

CALIFORNIA

LAGUNA BELAIR
SHOPHOUSES
STA. ROSA, LAGUNA

Run a business and raise a family in one and the same place. The Laguna BelAir Shophouse is a two-in-one unit that gives you store space on the ground floor and living quarters on the second floor. So you can go from work to home and back—easily.

Own a Shophouse and enjoy these advantages:

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- Separate entrances to the shop and your home for your privacy
- A large and ready market of around 2,300 Laguna BelAir families
- Strategically located along Rodeo Drive in Laguna BelAir 2, soon to become the main commercial strip for the whole Laguna BelAir township
- Easy access to Sta. Rosa-Tagaytay National Road and work centers like the Laguna Technopark and Laguna International Industrial Park
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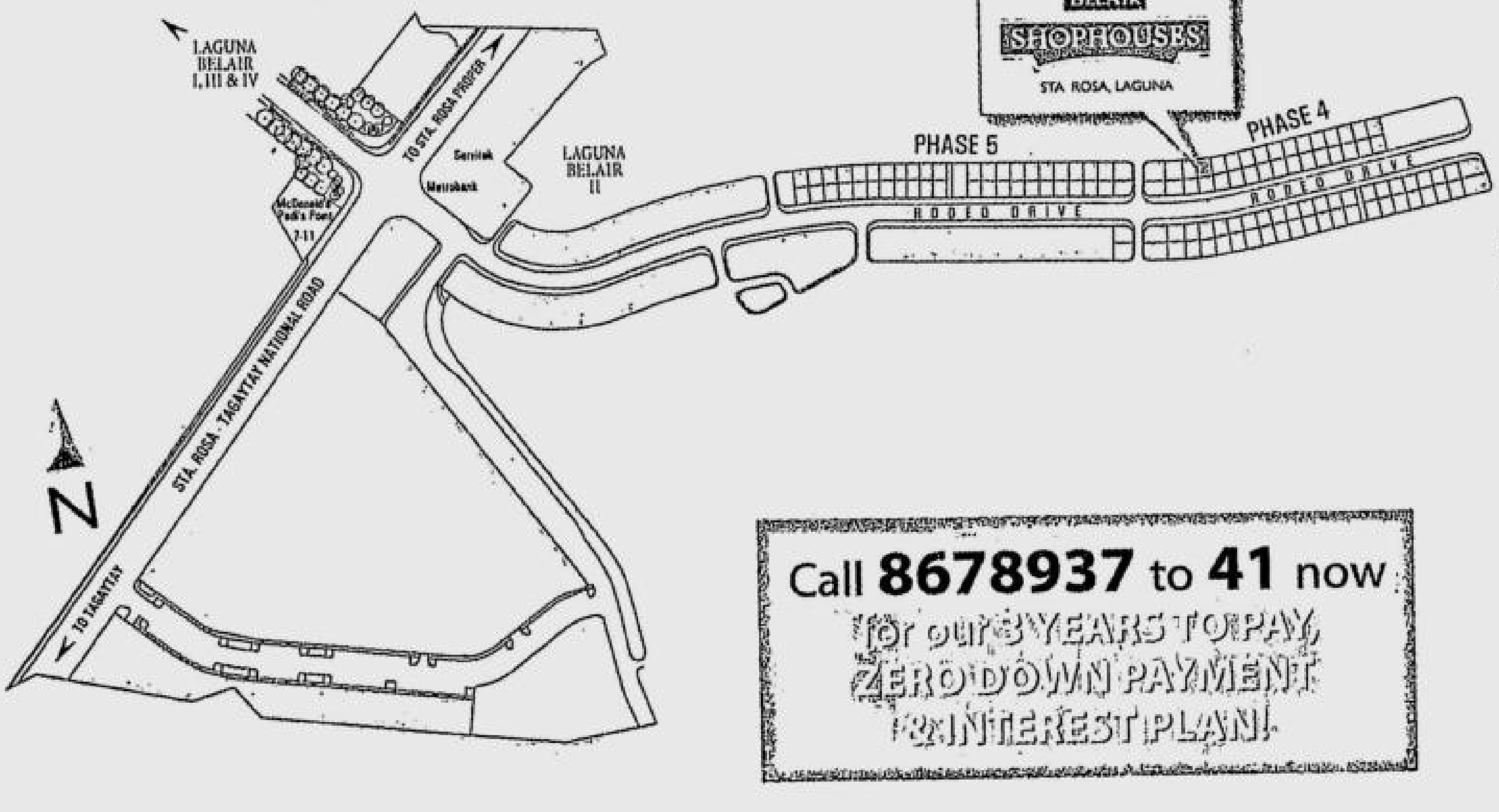
Mix business with pleasure—the pleasure of your family's company—under one roof. Only at a Laguna BelAir Shophouse.


LAGUNA BELAIR I, III & IV
TO STA. ROSA PROPER
Servitek
Metrobank
McDonald's
Pedi's Pony
7-11
LAGUNA BELAIR II
LAGUNA BELAIR
SHOPHOUSES
STA ROSA, LAGUNA
PHASE 5
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BUSINESS Friday

Business Features Editor **Margie Quimpo-Espino**

WHAT'S INSIDE

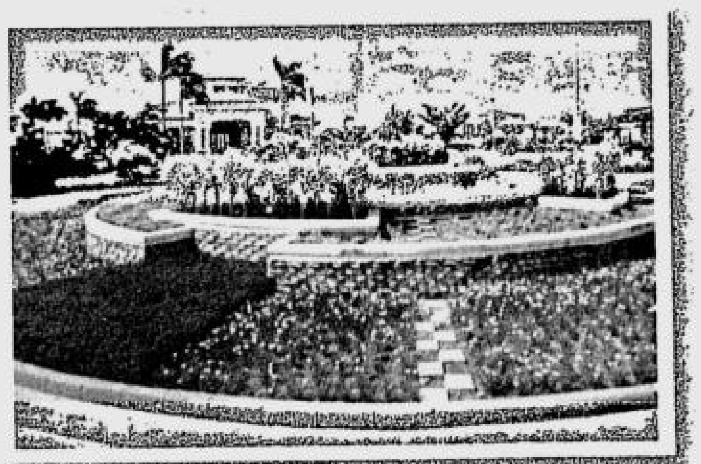
■ Seven faces of Filipino consuners revealed /B2-2
■ How to compete with cheap Chinese imports /B2-3
■ Learn the master's secrets /B2-3

■ Portrait of today's young adult as a consumer /B2-4

Prominence II

Main Clubhouse

One of six Children's Playgrounds



Rotunda

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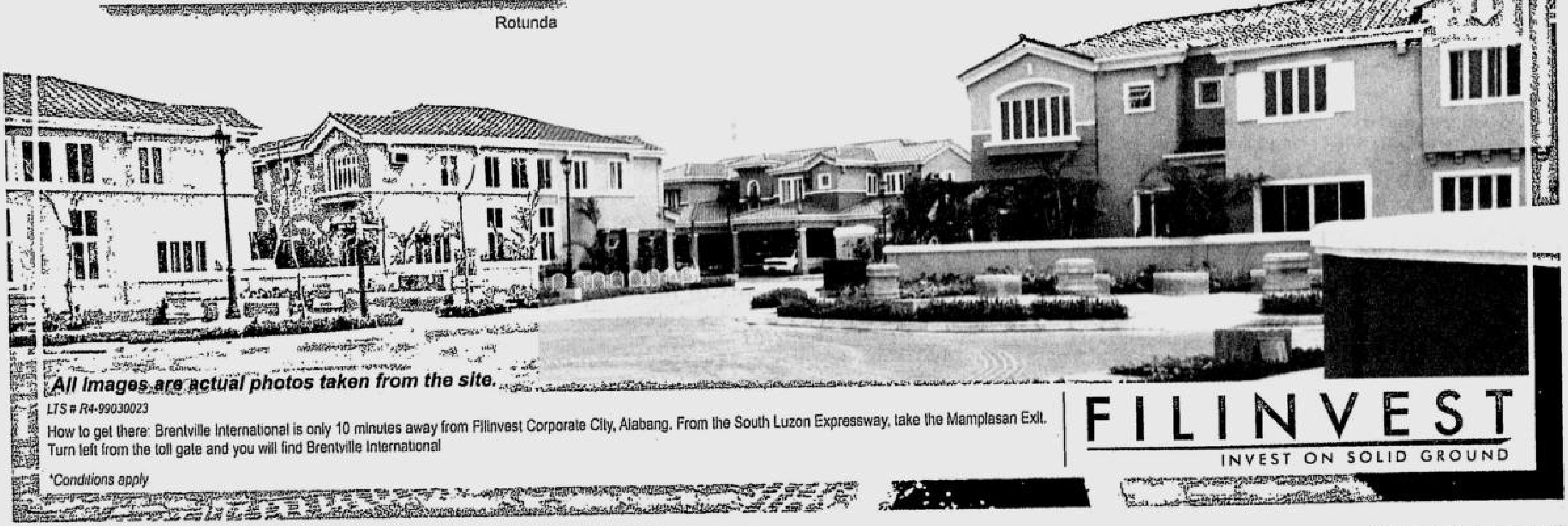

All Images are actual photos taken from the site.

LTS # R4-99030023

How to get there: Brentville International is only 10 minutes away from Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang. From the South Luzon Expressway, take the Mamplasan Exit. Turn left from the toll gate and you will find Brentville International

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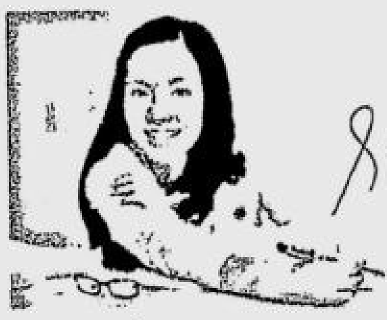

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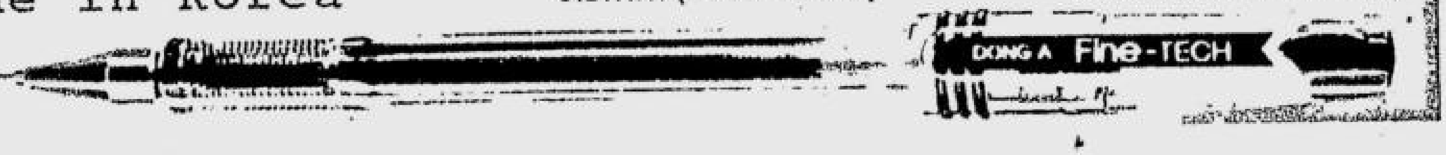
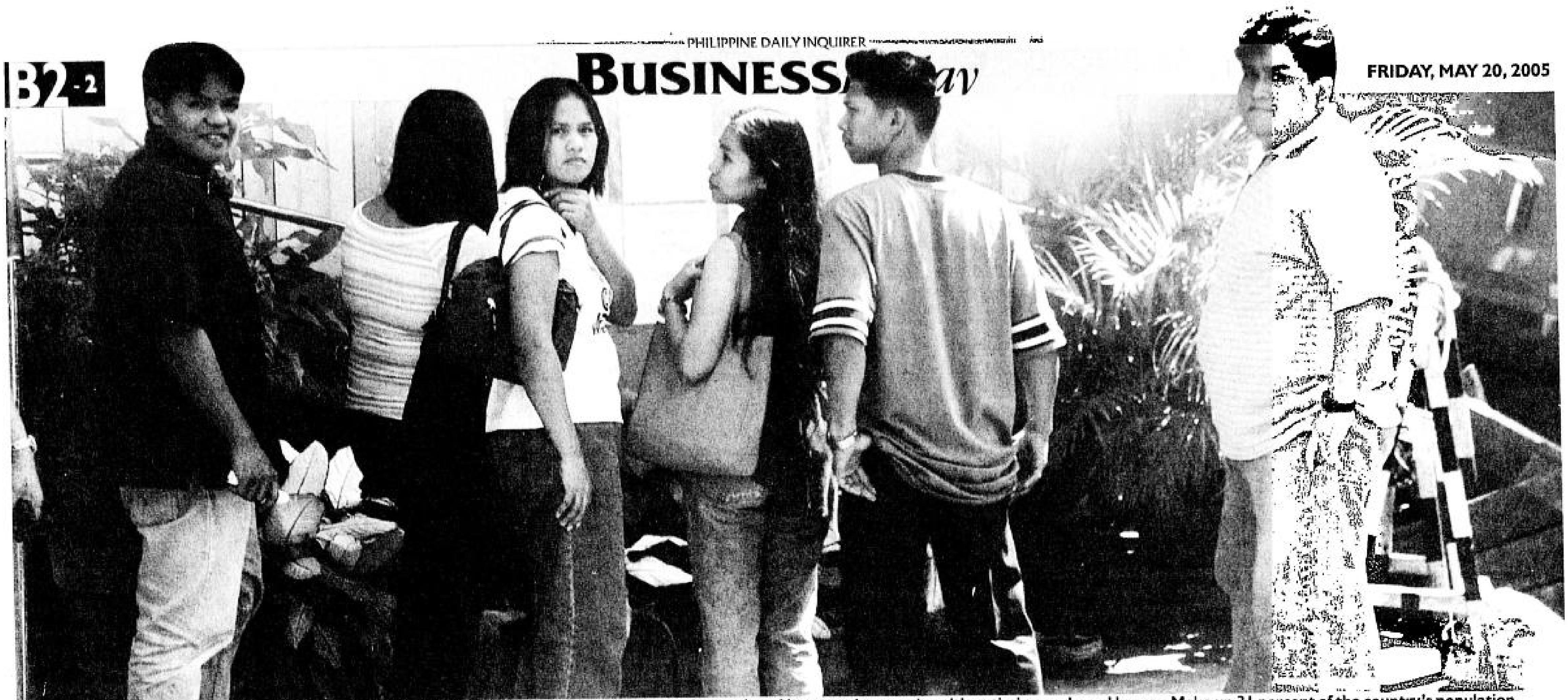




HOPEFUL masa. Most are from outside the greater Manila area. Many are unemployed or underemployed but somehow get by with optimism and good humor. Make up 31 percent of the country's population.

Faces of Filipino consumers revealed

By Karen V. De Asis
Contributor

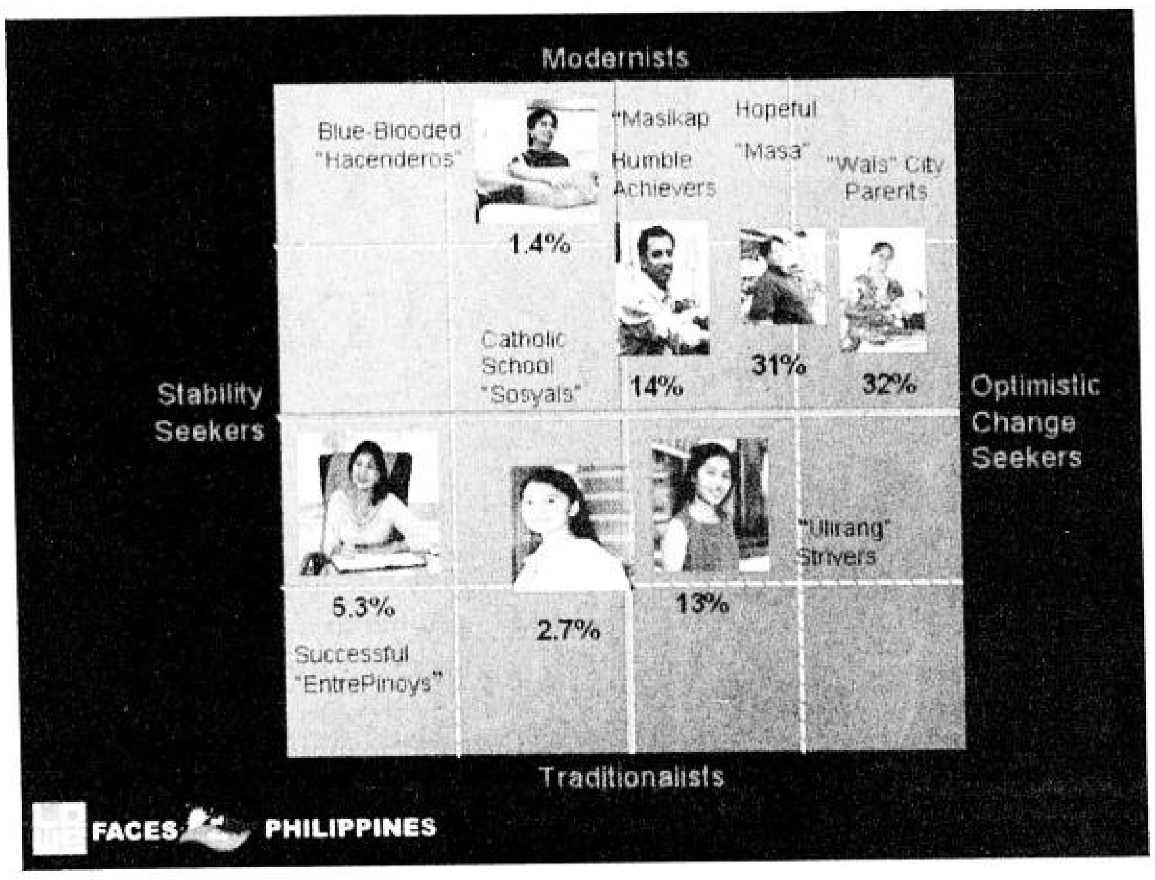
TAPPING nearly 84 million Filipinos, many with restricted purchasing power has become a challenging and daunting task for many marketers. This has led advertisers to put in substantial investments in market research to closely track consumer behavior and discover untapped market segments.

Lowe Manila, one of the country's top five advertising agencies, with brands like Johnson & Johnson, Surf, Rexona, Alaska, Petron, Best Foods, Fita, tucked in its portfolio spearheaded a major research on the Philippine consumer market.

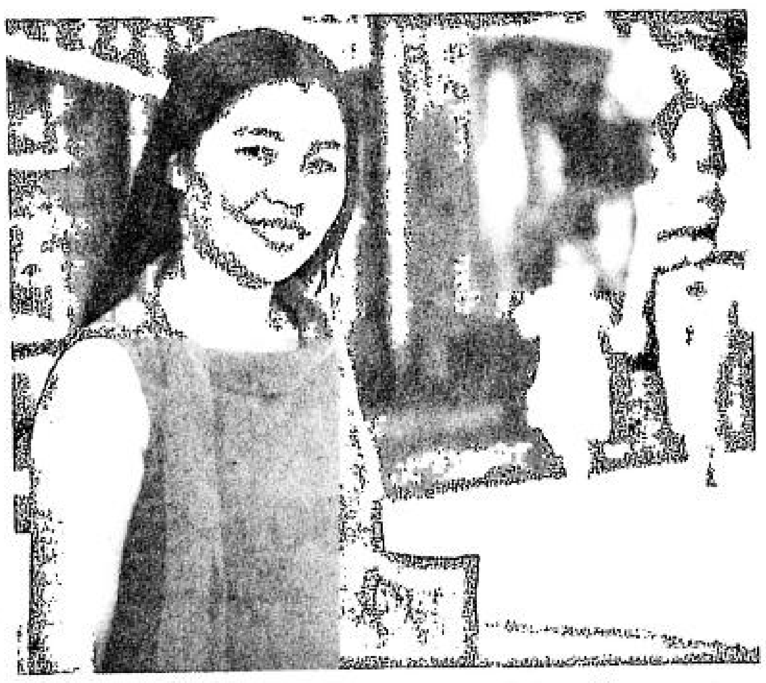
Aptly called, Faces of the Philippines, the study was shared in part during the recently concluded media conference at the Manila Peninsula. The research belonged to an extensive regional project called Faces of Asia by Lowe Asia-Pacific mounted across nine countries that included China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Taiwan, Thailand and Vietnam and participated by 20,000 Asian consumers. The Philippine module covered 570 male and female Filipinos, ages 13 to 50 years old representing all socio-economic classes from the key urban areas of Benguet, Pangasinan, Bulacan, Manila, Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Iloilo, Cebu, Negros Occidental, Misamis Oriental, Davao del Sur and South Cotabato.

According to Lowe Manila Chief Executive Officer, Mariles Gustilo, the study surprising revealed a more purposive Filipino consumer across all socio-classes demanding real value from his or her purchase. Likewise, the study uncovered seven segments of like-minded Filipino consumers. These segments are the wais city parents, hopeful *masa*, *masikap* humble achievers, *ulirang* strivers, successful entrepinoys, catholic school *sosyals* and blue-blooded hacienderos.

BLUE blooded hacienderos. Males and females, mostly 20 year olds, from provincial urban areas. Young, rich and loaded, they live to socialize. More than half say their needs are more important than others. Account for 1.4 percent of the population.



CATHOLIC school sosyals. Upscale high school girls from Metro Manila and key urban centers. Account for 2. 7 percent of the population. Study at exclusive schools for girls. She enjoys shopping but is not an impulse buyer.



ULIRANG achiever. At 13 percent of the population, this segment are mostly college educated single females in their 20s and 30s. Being their family's principal breadwinner, they are duty bound to improve the family and siblings lot.

MASIKAP humble achievers. From lower income household sin Metro Manila. Nine out of ten of them are likely to migrate to a foreign land.Account for 14 percent of the population.

SUCCESSFUL entrepinoy. Early adapter but shun flaunting and ostentation. Appeal of brands lies in their understatement and exclusivity.

WAIS city parents. Low-income Metro Manilans between 30 and 44. Account for 32 percent of the population. They struggle to maintain their lifestyle but are optimistic of future.

Seven faces unmasked

Wais city parents. Street smart Metro Manilans in their 30s to 40s, accounting for 32 percent of the population. They have a strong sense of family, aim for a better future for their children and strive to be good parents. They regularly watch telenovelas and entertainment talk shows and rarely channel surf. They are traditionalists, adopting new brands only if these have become immensely popular and recommended by family and friends. They have a penchant for foreign brands and are not impartial to buying fakes or knock offs. Nonetheless, they are eternal seekers of the best deal.

Hopeful masa. Economically challenged males and females, likely to be unemployed or underemployed, estimated at 31 percent of the population. They are realistic about their plight yet they remain optimistic about their future.

They aspire to escape the hard life while they value keeping their dignity and good name. They keep track of brands and are aware of trends based on peer observation and television media. Affordability is their main purchase consideration. Generic brands, knock-offs and imitations remain big in this segment. Overall, they opt for value and quality brands as long as these remain within budget.

Masikap, humble achievers. Mostly in their 20s and 30s, this segment of college level predominantly young males believe that education is the ultimate equalizer. They believe that proper education will help them achieve their dreams of a better life. Family remains a strong driver. Their biggest aspiration is to work abroad and jump start a business. In fact, 9 out of 10 in this segment are likely to migrate to earn more and pursue further learning.

Their dream is to become rich and move into the upper class. These humble achievers are an estimated 14 percent of the population.

Ulirang strivers. At 13 percent of the population, this segment are mostly college educated single females in their 20s and 30s. Being their family's principal breadwinner, they are duty bound to improve the family and siblings lot. They aspire to become nurses or caregivers in the hope of uplifting their families' lives. Brand awareness comes from watching game shows or soap operas.

However, they value their family's opinion when it comes to brand choice.

Catholic school sosyals. A small 2.7 percent of the population, mostly upscale high school girls studying at exclusive private Catholic schools. They like checking out new products and brands, seek peer approval and are quite materialistic. Nonetheless, they are also idealistic, often moved by social consciousness and nationalism. Most aspire to be campus queens and are keen on being seen with the right crowd. They avoid television commercials and keep abreast of the latest trends mainly through peer observation or by following their favorite celebrities.

Successful entrepinoys. Predominantly affluent, well-educated women in their 40s who pay little attention to advertising. They make up 5.3 percent of the population. They would like to see local brands flourish in the market along with global brands. They like trying new products but opt to stay with brands that are never ostentatious or loud yet with elegant understatement.

Blue-blooded hacienderos. A small 1.4 percent of the population, these young, mostly 20-year-old males and females are rich and are obviously cool and carefree. They like to socialize, aspire to have more of the good life with more than half believing that their needs are more important than others.

Other findings

The study proved invaluable in dredging insights common across the seven cluster segments:

1. Three common coping mechanisms for managing present day harsh realities are saving when able, aspiring to live and work abroad and starting a business.

2. Family is the single, most important relationship and motivating driver for many Filipinos.

3. Dignity and a good name are prevalent Filipino values. Thus, even when women earn more than men and in certain situations have become the family's principal breadwinners and while stay at home husbands are now an emergent market, women rarely flaunt their contribution to family household income, often relegating themselves to a mere supporting role.

4. Television, including free TV and cable entertainment, is the main source of trends and new product information.

5. Five most important attributes of good advertising include clarity of message, a nice story, communicates good values, humorous and realistic.

6. Top five advertising irritants include a corny execution, conveys bad values, *bastos* (rude), boring and scandalous.

"The Lowe research stayed close to the reality and hopes of Filipino consumers as much as it was possible. The study was created around a simple truth. The greater our understanding of consumers, the better we can communicate with them", Gustilo concluded.

Feedback at kdeasis@skyinet.net

How do I compete with cheap imports from China?

I USED to have a growing and reasonably profitable business that markets home fixtures especially for bathrooms and kitchens, and finishing materials like floor and wall tiles. Now, I'm almost ready to close shop because there's just no way I can compete against cheap imports from China that my customers buy at 30 percent to even 50 percent less and with comparable quality. Is there anything I can do before throwing in the towel? Help!

We know of many business friends in the export sector as well as those who, like you, are trying to still make money out of the local market and who had faced this same problem. Many gave up and decided to move on somewhere else (literally speaking). A few took courage and decided to fight. We still have to see if these few brave souls will succeed or not. So let's diagnose your problem in terms of what is being done as well as what is not being done. Then it's up to you to make up your mind if you'd like to go on or (as you put it) throw in the towel.

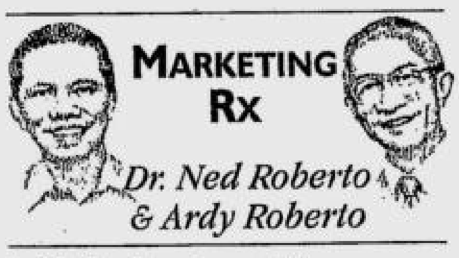
Why Mariwasa gave up

One of the biggest (if not the biggest) local manufacturers of home finishing materials was Mariwasa. When the market was flooded with really low-cost Chinese floor and wall tiles, it struggled first and then decided to give up. But subsequently, those buying the cheap imports got disappointed. The cheap imports were what they presented themselves to be: cheap. But so was the value: really low and poor. So the market started shifting back to quality makers. Or at least a good portion and segment of it.

That's actually where the true solution to the problem lies. It's basically an STP solution—segment, target, position. So first, segment the market and target a niche. Then, position on the niche's priority value that the cheap imports are unable to satisfy.

We know that is easier said than done. When confronted with the painful threat of cheap Chinese imports that cut deeply into your top line and bottom line, it's understandable to panic. Suddenly, there's not enough to source the next 15th and 30th payroll as well as meet suppliers' bills. And so we resort to what seems to be immediately doable like legal actions and pressure tactics.

We know of various groups of businessmen who mobilized their business friends to ask their congressmen for help. They wanted Congress to pass a law giving special protection to their industry against low-cost imports. In effect, this is asking for a special exception to the country's signed agreement with the WTO for removal of all trade barriers.



MARKETING Rx

Dr. Ned Roberto & Ardy Roberto

Lobbying is not a solution

In time, in fact within the year, it will become obvious that no real help would come out of the lobbying. But others would persist by directing their anger to local affiliates of multinational companies who are making the imports or who have transferred their manufacturing to China. But the range of friendly persuasions up to high-handed pressures would also come to naught.

The earlier it is accepted that lobbying and scare tactics offer no real solutions, the earlier will our beleaguered local businesses take a more realistic assessment of the situation. One such realistic assessment is to STP the market.

Start the diagnosis with the MMT concept: the "Magnitude of the Marketing Task." Compute how many customers you need in order to get back your business to its profitable sales level the year before the cheap imports from China started eroding it. You often will be surprised. It isn't that many. We know of a besieged Marikina shoemaker who, given his shoes' high-end pricing, found that his target MMT was just a little under 10,000 or about 25-30 buyers a day, each buying a pair of shoes once a year! He knew from his customer database that more than half of his customers buy two or more pairs during the year.

Next, undertake a market segmentation analysis. Ask: "What market segment, or more accurately, what market niche of buyers can make up my target MMT?" If you do not have a customer database to provide you with the necessary data, then ask help from your dealers or your market research friends. You have to be patient here. It will take all of your creativity and imagination to carry out a good and insightful segmentation analysis.

At the end of this process, you will find that there is always a niche of customers who liked your product and have stayed for its superior value. The key is to find out if that superior value has remained the same or has changed. If it has not changed and competition has not matched your delivery of it, then reinforce and you'll keep this customer niche. If what your customer niche considers superior value has changed, find out exactly what the new value is. Then redesign or reformulate your product to distinctively deliver on the new superior value. Again, this is hard work; in fact, harder and more involved than the preceding step of segmentation analysis. For the specifics on how to undertake this, you might want to refer to the appropriate chapters on this step in the senior MRx-er's User-Friendly Marketing Research book.

To multiply your customer base, use your loyal customer niche as your buzz media tool and spread the "good news." Please refer to our previous column on buzz marketing (archived in www.Inq7.net) on the specifics of how to do buzz marketing.

Finally, we say "Try to hold on and persist." Remember that China cannot remain forever cheap. As it accelerates its development and wealth building, it will eventually become expensive. Already, it is becoming clear that China has the long-term vision to appreciate this future. That's why we see China feeling and doing a USA. It's top leaders are moving around the region looking for business partners. And the Philippines is clearly a target partner. It is likely that the Philippines will eventually become one of the cheapest places in the region to outsource. That future is not a distant one. When it comes, it will no longer be "Made in China" that will strike fear. It will be "Made in the Philippines" that will. Impossible? Well, it is said that entrepreneurs are eternal optimists. So why not dream and start making it work!

Keep your questions coming. Send them to us at MarketingRx@pldtDSL.net or text us at 0919-314-5412.

Learn the masters' secrets

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

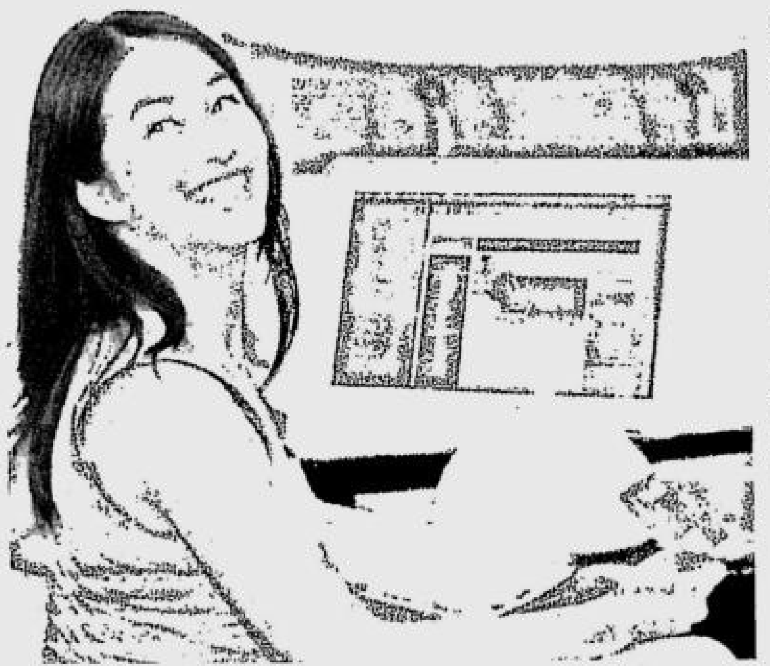
MARKETING professionals live in very interesting times.

In a retail world characterized by head-to-head competition, unfettered entry of new, more aggressive players, it is no longer enough to just rely on superiority in price, product, place and promotion.

For chances are, there is a company out there that can produce the same product faster and at a far lower price.

Thus, according to Donald Lim, president of the Philippine Marketing Association, excellence in the so-called 4Ps of marketing is no longer a guarantee that a company will be able to tough it out in today's crowded marketplace.

Lim stresses that strength in these basics should be supported by two fundamental pillars—technology and customer relationship management.



THE WORLD is changing into a very digital, interconnected landscape where buying and selling are consummated at the tips of our fingers.

"Marketing cannot exist without the use of technology. With the advent of e-commerce, m-commerce and all the rest of the letters of the alphabet, the world is fast changing into a very digital, interconnected landscape where buying and selling are consummated at the tips of our fingers," Lim says.

He says it was because of technology that companies could easily copy products and flood the market with it in just a month's time, thus, erasing advantages in product development.

The product then becomes very ordinary.

It sounds unfair, but it is the way the game is played in a globalized marketplace.

Lim says the far-reaching impact of technology on marketing was why the PMA adopted "Marketing Convergence" as the theme of this year's National Marketing Convention.

"We felt that we have to prepare and educate Filipino marketers on what is happening in business worldwide. Product innovation, global competition and specialization are all big words. But these are the very realities that marketers have to deal with," he says.

"In this day and age, if you fail to educate yourself or keep yourself abreast with what is happening, I can confidently say your business will not even survive for a year," he adds.

Lim says there was no better time than today to get ahead in the marketing game as the Philippines was on the cusp of a much-awaited economic upswing.

"The world is divided into seven-year cycles and you just saw the collapse of currencies, starting from the Asian financial crisis in 1997 and leading toward an economic depression until 2004. That means 2005 is the start of the next seven-year cycle and we should take advantage of this growth period," Lim says.

He also highlighted the importance of good customer relationship management in sharpening that competitive edge.

Loyal customers make the best customers, after all.

"You need a good CRM structure to assure yourself that you will not wake up one day and realize that all your customers have gone to your competitors," he says.

"Organizations cannot be sustained by one-time customers. It would not be profitable and requires a lot of work," he adds.

Lim also says investing in customers, taking the time to listen and talk to them to keep abreast of their needs, would help ensure that the organization would stay ahead of the game.

All these efforts, however, must stem from a feeling of optimism, in believing that good things are in store for a hard-working company.

"Optimism keeps you pushing forward regardless of the adversities," he says.

Combine optimism with hard work, relationship and time management, investment in continuous improvement and old-fashioned good lock, and you have the formula for success.

Lim also advised marketing professionals to take brand management to heart. Think of brands as someone deserving of tender, loving care.

"People now are very careful when they part with their money. Everything boils down to trust. The brand name may never appear in balance sheets, but its value is far more than the assets and the people combined. It is the reputation and perception of the brand that makes or breaks a company," he says.

To talk more on the latest marketing principles that professionals need to know today are the speakers that the PMA has put together to highlight the two-day conference on May 25-26 at the Westin Philippine Plaza Hotel.

These include Hermawan Kartajaya, president of the World Marketing Association; Gavin Coombers, vice president of Euro RSCG Asia Pacific who will talk about how businesses can grow in this technology-driven age; and Christophe Bezu, top executive of Adidas from Hong Kong, who will talk on sports marketing.

Learn from these masters' secrets, Lim says, and survive in today's competitive business landscape.

Catch The Best
In The Net.
OB MARKE

MANY new graduates complain that when applying for jobs, priority is given to graduates from top universities like Ateneo, La Salle, and the University of the Philippines.

Profile of today's...

From page B2-4

however, many are faced with a very harsh reality: that the playing field is not necessarily a level one. Many complain that while going through the process of submitting job applications, going to job interviews, or attending job fairs, priority is given to graduates from top universities like Ateneo, La Salle, and University of the Philippines. As one graduating student said of her experience in one of the job fairs: "*Nakita ko talaga na hiniwalay nila ang* resumés *ng mga taga-*La Salle *at* Ateneo. *Hindi naman yata* fair."

Those from other schools feel demoralized by this. "*Hindi dahil hindi kami makapag-bayad ng* tuition fee *na iba kami sa kanila. Dapat* based on ability… *hindi* based on school."

Jaded by the old career model. Upcoming graduates also feel daunted by the challenges they know anyone trying to climb the corporate ladder will have to face. But unlike previous batches of graduates, there is some uncertainty as to whether having to face such challenges is worth it at all. There seems to be a growing consensus that the "pains" of having to start from the bottom is not worth the starting salary most traditional white collar jobs in big companies provide.

More and more, then, the "noble" and "prestigious" professions of yore are now considered impractical options. Nowadays, it is quite commonplace to hear graduating students and first-jobbers saying things like…

"Gustuhin ko mang mag doctor, kalokohan ang mag-aral ng sampung taon. Mahirap ang pera. Matagal ang balik."

"I never thought I'd be joining a call center when I entered college, but how can I resist the higher starting salary?"

"Why be a lawyer when you can be a teacher abroad instead?"

Immediate gratification—even when it comes to conventionally "long term" decisions like career options and decisions—has become the norm.

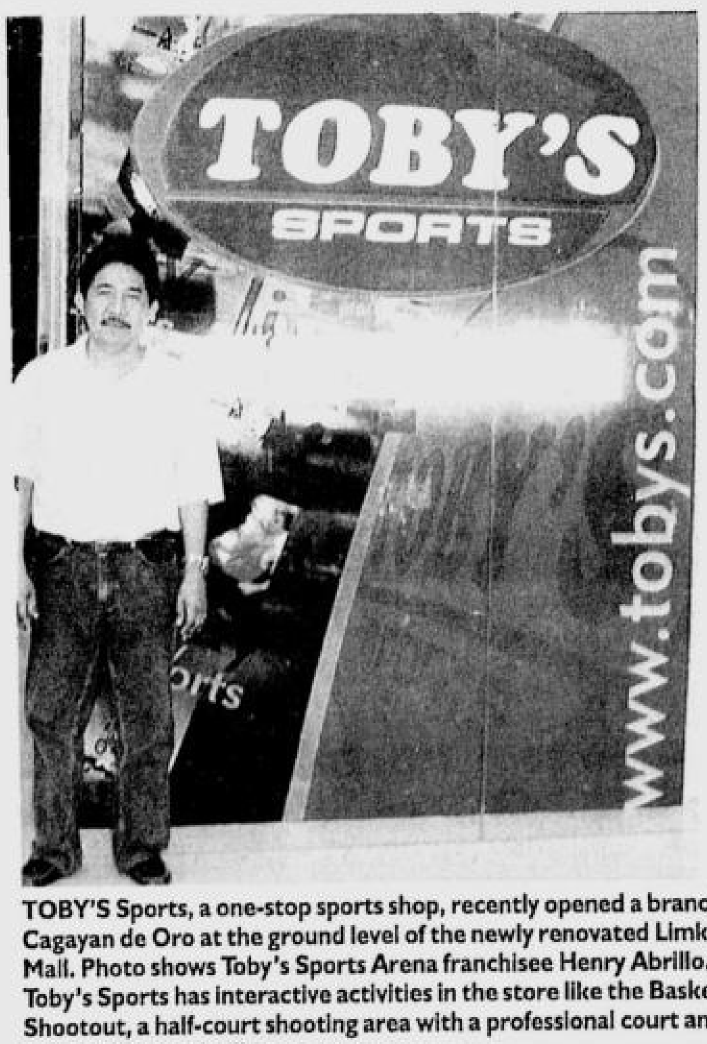
Short-cutting the future. Tolerance for the pains of climbing the corporate ladder seems to have been weakened somewhat. On the other hand, jobs in call centers, working abroad as a teacher or nurse, have become much more appealing—replacing the age-old 'yuppie paradigm' that nurturing a worthwhile career requires long-term thinking and that sacrifices have to be made in the present to reap more rewards in the future.

Also, the attractiveness of such jobs puts into question the role of passion and true interest in deciding on what job to choose. The new belief is that while professions in call centers and nursing abroad may not necessarily be in line with their "true calling," they are relatively quick means for one to pay for the lifestyle that is, ultimately, the one that they want to work hard for.

New role of brands. With these learnings, we can very well expect the complexion of the young adult market to change as a new breed of graduates who are much more acquisitive but less tolerant of the old career paradigm enter the workplace.

The challenge for brands targeting young adults, therefore, is on how to keep pace with these significant changes. Clearly, brands that push the envelope on promises of a better life and lifestyle will succeed. Brands that are able to promise immediate gratification and appeal to consumer's desire for quick rewards will also do well.

While it may appear, however, that immediate gratification of material needs and quick career rewards are the new order of the day for young upstarts, these are all but new means and attitudes to attain the same classic desire for progress and the attainment of a better life—for self and family. For them however, pragmatism has become the new idealism.



TOBY'S Sports, a one-stop sports shop, recently opened a branch in Cagayan de Oro at the ground level of the newly renovated Limkettai Mall. Photo shows Toby's Sports Arena franchisee Henry Abrillo. Toby's Sports has interactive activities in the store like the Basketball Shootout, a half-court shooting area with a professional court and an indoor climbing facility.

EPCIBank named 'SuperBrand' in consumer poll

EQUITABLE PCI Bank has been rated a "SuperBrand" in an annual survey conducted by Reader's Digest, in which consumers in six Asian countries are polled for the brands they most admire.

The country's third largest bank with consolidated assets of P309 billion was named a Gold SuperBrand in the 2005 Philippines SuperBrand Survey, a genuine consumer poll done by the popular monthly magazine to determine and measure consumers brand preferences.

Conducted every year since 1999, the survey last year added banks to the 42 product categories that include lifestyle, everyday and service items.

Equitable PCI Bank performed outstandingly well in both qualitative and quantitative results, scoring higher than most other homegrown brands in its category.

Only four of the Philippines 41 commercial banks qualified as SuperBrands.

"This award validates our relentless pursuit of customer service excellence and our hard work to fashion a business that is organized entirely around the customer," said EPCIBank chair Antonio L. Go.

In the last few years, we reconfigured our retail banking operations, retrained staff, streamlined our branch network, opened new distribution channels, adopted new technologies, and rolled out innovative products and services, all for the purpose of making banking easier and more convenient for the customer, averred EPCIBank president & CEO Rene J. Buenaventura.

As a result we stand in the esteem of our customers as the leading provider of financial services that best help them realize their financial goals, he added.

Profile of today's young adult as consumer

By Hans Lopez-Vito
Strategic Planning Director,
McCann Erickson Phils. Inc.

YUPPIES. The working class. White collar professionals. Career-builders. They come by different names. But marketers the world over are united in recognizing the immense power of the young-adult consumer segment - a group that enjoys a considerable degree of financial freedom without the social and financial responsibilities brought about by family-building. It is no wonder then that they are such a compelling target market for a wide range of products and services.

Understanding the new breed of young adults. But how much do advertisers really know about today's 20-something consumer? Do past paradigms still apply? Or do current assumptions on what makes this consumer segment tick no longer hold? These questions are especially relevant to marketers nowadays as thousands of fresh college and university graduates aspire to enter the workforce to form the "new breed" of young workers.

To answer these questions, advertising giant McCann Erickson Philippines brought to bear McCann PulseTM , the agency's consumer insighting program designed to keep the agency and its clients at the forefront of consumer trends and values.

TODAY'S incoming batch of young workers are also exposed to a new phenomenon which only helps fuel the trend towards consumerism among young people today: the call center.

For this particular inquest, McCann's resident "consumerholic" and strategic planners delved into the lives of soon-to-graduate college students from class A,B,C,D homes, supplemented with insights from HR professionals and college professors. By focusing—not on career builders themselves—but rather on "pre-career builders," the learnings can help the agency get their client brands ahead of the curve on consumer insights on the working young adult market.

Heightened consumer consciousness. Having grown up surrounded by more things to desire—be it the latest model of cell phones, to hang out and order an occasional 'venti' in their favorite Starbucks, or to party with friends at the latest happening place—tomorrow's young office worker has a truly heightened sense of consumer consciousness.

Nothing can stop the incoming young adult's desire to "acquire and experience"—regardless of what socioeconomic class they're from. They have their own unique ability to find effective ways to equip themselves with more or less the same lifestyle that their upper class counterparts enjoy by looking for better deals with their limited allowances or sometimes relying on their willing richer friends to foot the gimmick bill.

Call of the mall, call of the call center. But more than just the "call of the mall" as writer Paco Underhill refers to the heightened sense of retail-mania gripping the world, today's incoming batch of young workers are also exposed to a new phenomenon which only helps fuel the trend towards consumerism among young people today: The call center.

Riding on offshore company's push for outsourcing business processes to third-world countries like the Philippines, a call center job promises today's graduating class of college students much higher pay and benefits than traditional white collar options.

Call centers, however, also employ undergraduates; and many have stopped their studies temporarily to enjoy the power to earn amounts never before imagined by people their age. Armed with the newest cell phones, new clothes, and more money to gimmick, these call center part-timers have become a source of envy to their friends who have chosen to remain in school.

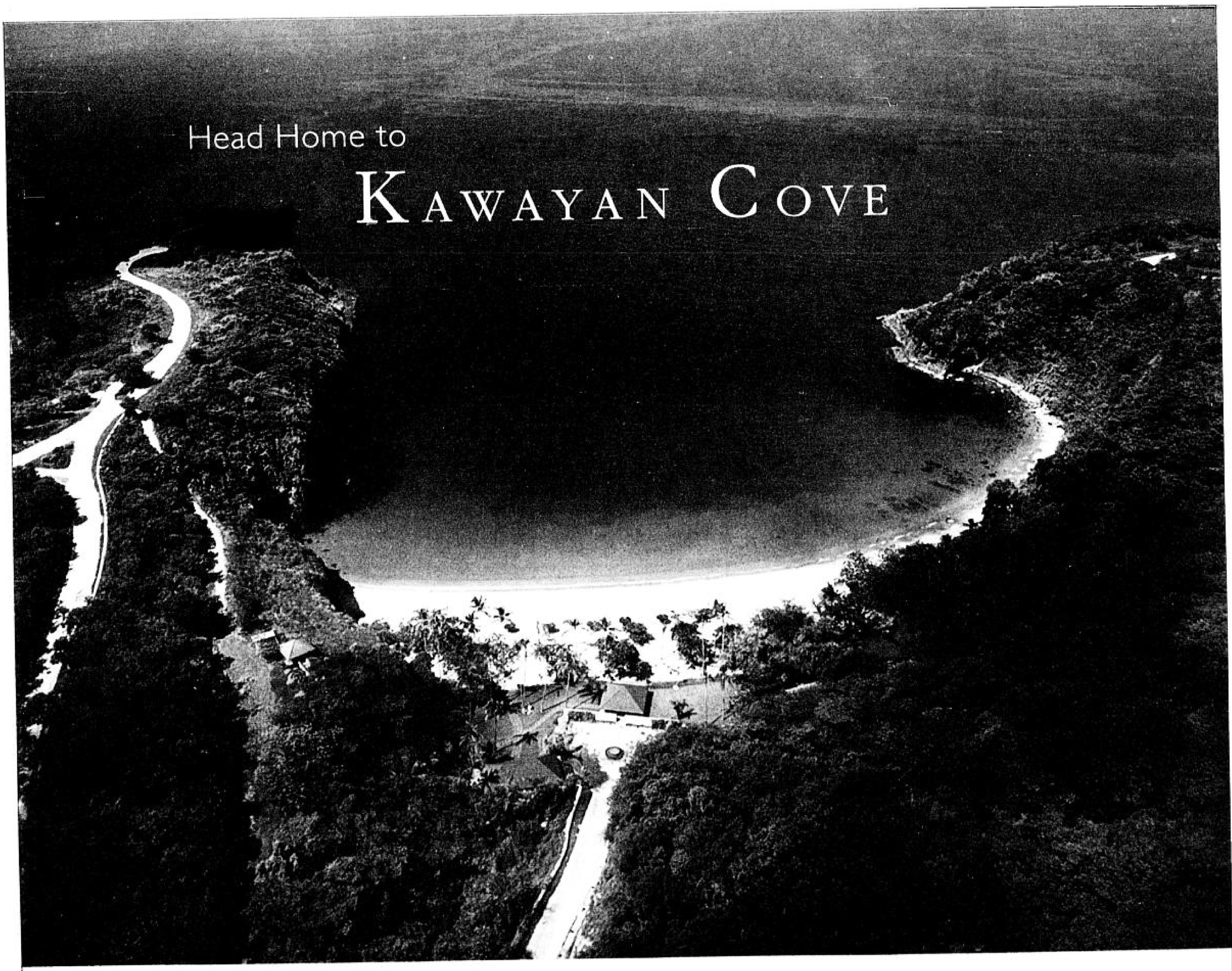
Needless to say, such envy inevitably finds its way to strengthening the desire of the future workforce to desire for more. As one graduating respondent said of her call center friends—"*Nakakainggit talaga sila. Estudyante pa lang, pero ang dami na nilang pera. Ang sarap na ng buhay nila.*"

Ushering the new age of materialism. Their choice of role models also seems to validate this newfound desire to "acquire and experience." Asked who in the world of popular mass media they can relate to the most, it was surprising that the names Paris Hilton and Donald Trump emerged quite consistently. Their strong appeal is grounded on their ability to "acquire and experience" life to the excess limit without anything standing in their way. In the case of Trump, the males in particular, revel at how being rich can help a man get any woman he desires—even if they have bad hair.

With these heightened aspirations, it is no wonder, then, that these students simply cannot wait to graduate, and get started on earning real money.

Frustrations of competing in a non-level playing field. As they take steps to join the workforce,

PROFILE/ B3



The name Bamboo Beach has an almost mythic ring to it. Many people have heard stories about it, but only a few have ever set foot on its natural white sands.

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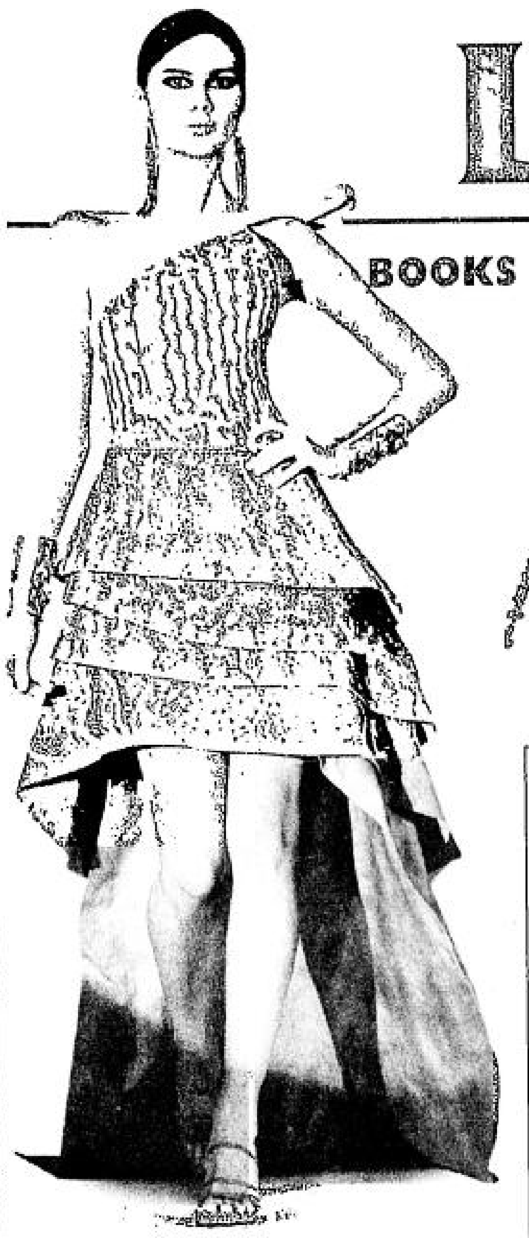
Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

DUNKIN DONUTS
Slabsters

'I'll take Malaysia'

Nono Palmos employs the tricks of the trade to steal the show in Malaysia and focus regional spotlight on indigenous fabrics and inimitable Pinoy design flair



ASYMMETRIC *jusi* **number with tiered skirt and uneven hem**

Text by Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

IF THE warm response a Filipino fashion designer got in Kuala Lumpur was any indication, then the region and perhaps the rest of the world are now ready for made-to-order clothes made from indigenous Philippine fabrics.

Nono Palmos, an exponent of Philippine fabrics such as *piña*, *hablon* and Mindanao silk interpreted in classic, Western-style silhouettes, was among the featured regional designers in the recently concluded KL Fashion Week (*see related story*). It marked the second time in the event's three-year history that organizers invited Asian designers to show clothes alongside those of their Malaysian colleagues.

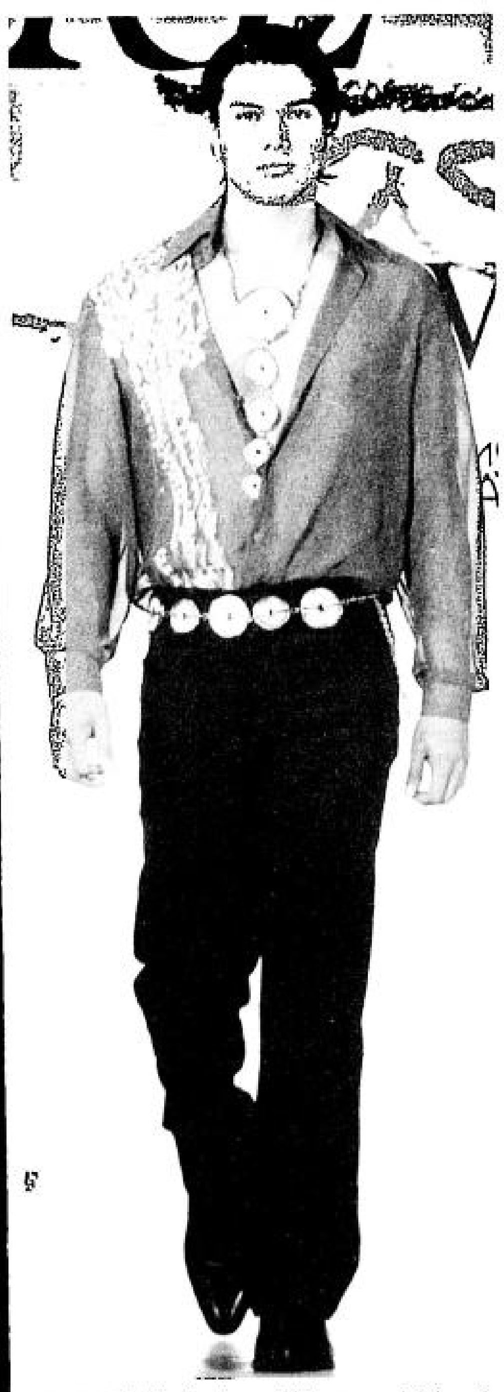
A master of timing as well as a bit of theatrics, Palmos opened his segment with a bang. Not a few Malaysians found the entire 12-piece collection a fitting finale that capped the event's second to the last day.

"His pieces were absolutely stunning," said Datin Linda Ngiam, deputy group GM of the Star, Malaysia's leading English-language daily, and chair of this year's fashion week. "It was obvious that he put so much pride and effort into his designs. And the crowd loved what they saw."

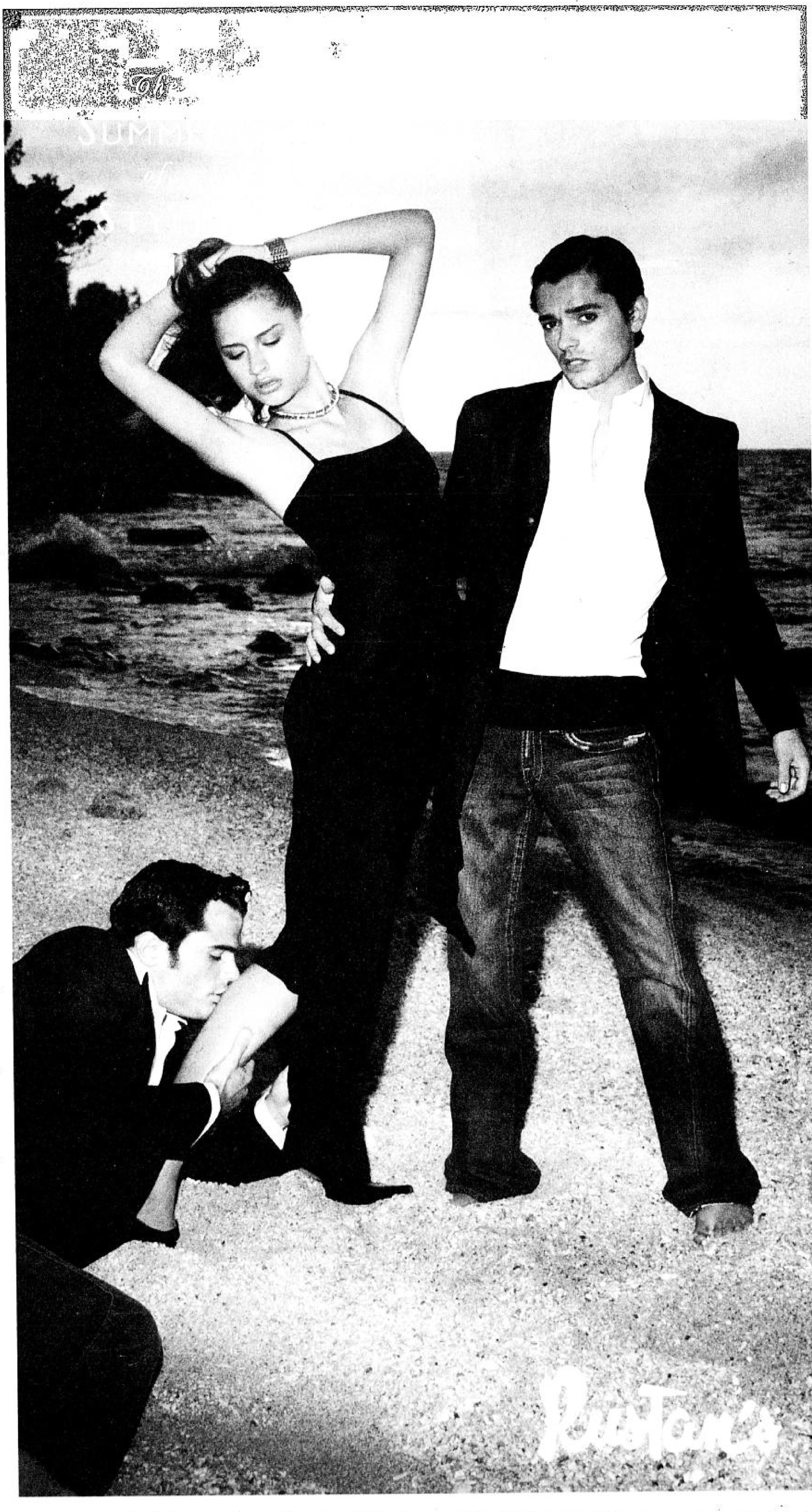
Pitoy trick

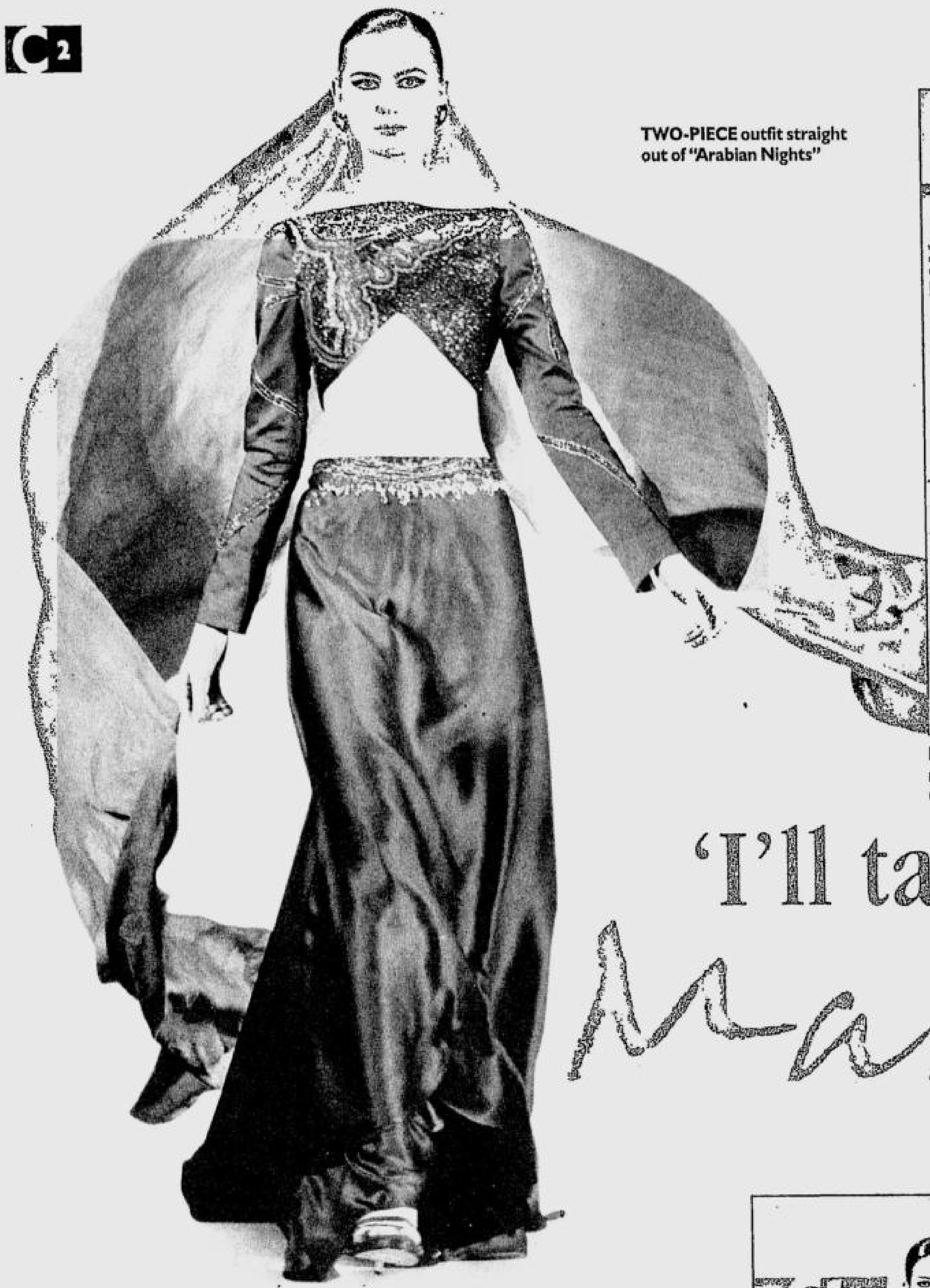
Taking his cue perhaps from veteran designer Pitoy Moreno, Palmos resorted to the tried-

I'LL TAKE/ C2

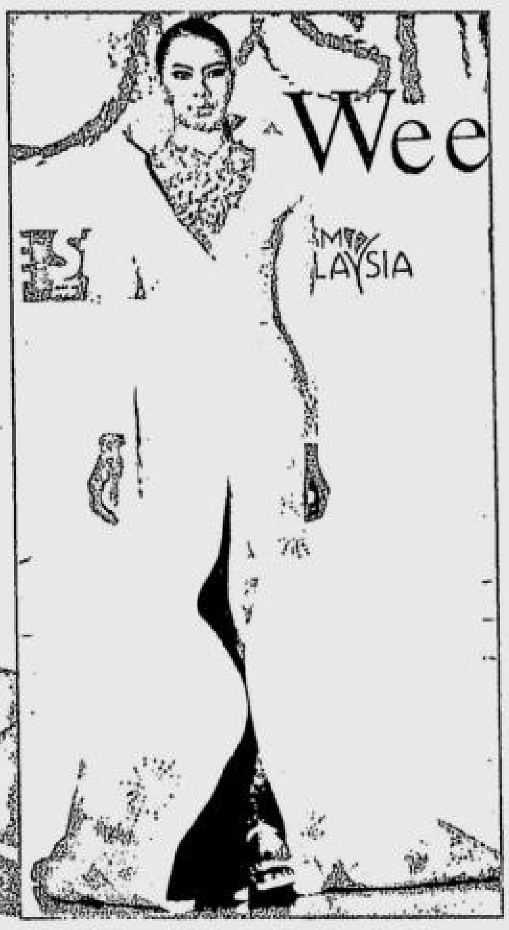


RAPHAEL Kieffer in a chiffon top with hand-painted detail





TWO-PIECE outfit straight out of "Arabian Nights"



FILIPINA model Marjay Ramirez in A-line number with a thigh-high slit and a Maria Clara-inspired collar

THE LOWLY *hablon* gets an air of sophistication, thanks to sequins, crack beads and cotton fillers.

'I'll take Malaysia'

NONO Palmos, with signature models Evita Bunyi and Raphael Kieffer, takes a bow.

From page C1

and-tested "close-open" device. In lieu of Moreno's trademark panels and reversible capes, however, the younger designer made his model use a flowing orange shawl fashioned from Mindanao silk to temporarily obscure his opening number: a semi-beaded canary-yellow gown made of dupioni silk.

Filipino mannequin Evita Bunyi emerged on the ramp clutching the shawl. She then advanced a few steps before suddenly taking the wrap off to reveal the gown's elegant beadwork and décolleté neckline. The audience broke into hearty applause almost simultaneously. After all these years, the gimmick still worked.

The designer and his brother Jorge, who helps him in embellishment, flew to Malaysia with Bunyi and fellow model Raphael Kieffer a few days earlier. Just like its regional counterparts, the group's expenses were taken care of by Malaysia's tourism ministry and its sponsors.

Organizers, who apparently learned of Palmos' efforts to propagate Philippine fabrics (the Iloilo native works with a group of weavers in his hometown Miag-ao as well as in nearby Aklan province), invited him to Malaysia last February. The designer found them easy to deal with, so it took him less than a day to say yes.

"Despite my busy schedule, it was hard for me to refuse," said Palmos. "After all, the chance to represent our country doesn't come every day. Imagine, of all the many good designers we have back home, they chose me. It was, indeed, an honor."

Palmos then proceeded to refurbish and slightly alter existing pieces to fit the measurements of Malaysian models. When he learned that Singapore-based Filipino model Marjay Ramirez was part of the show, he lost no time casting her as well.

ROYAL-BLUE cutout with tailored sleeves and willowy shawl made of Mindanao silk

Accessories overload

The designer also beefed up his accessories, consisting of chunky necklaces and tiaras. He worked closely with noted accessories designer Arnel Papa. Palmos probably overdid it. Despite having checked in together as a group on a Malaysian Airlines flight to KL, Palmos and company's suitcases exceeded the allowed weight limit.

"I didn't expect my clothes to weigh that much," he said with a grin. "I was ready to pay $300 to cover for the excess weight, but when the person behind the counter found out our purpose in KL he gladly waived the charges."

The collection Palmos showed drew inspiration from several objects: bright and colorful *vintas*, underwater scenes and bursts of fireworks.

Apart from the canary-yellow number with an orange shawl, which derived inspiration from the *vinta*, he showed a royal-blue cutout with a semi-beaded bodice, column skirt and tailored long sleeves also made of dupioni silk. This time, however, the willowy Mindanao silk in red which billowed on the ramp came in the form of attachments that originated from both sides of the model's brushed-up hair.

A pair of tiered and partially beaded and dyed *jusi* numbers with midriff tops, one in forest green, the other in orangey rust, were Palmos' idea of an underwater world. He further jazzed up each piece by giving it beaded and extended straps.

One Malaysian woman found the exaggerated straps so intriguing, she thought they were the designer's stylized version of the *terno*. In fact, she didn't even know the exact name of the Philippine costume, but when she mentioned Imelda Marcos, Palmos immediately knew what she meant. Indeed, in the eyes of the world, the *terno* remains associated with the disgraced former First Lady.

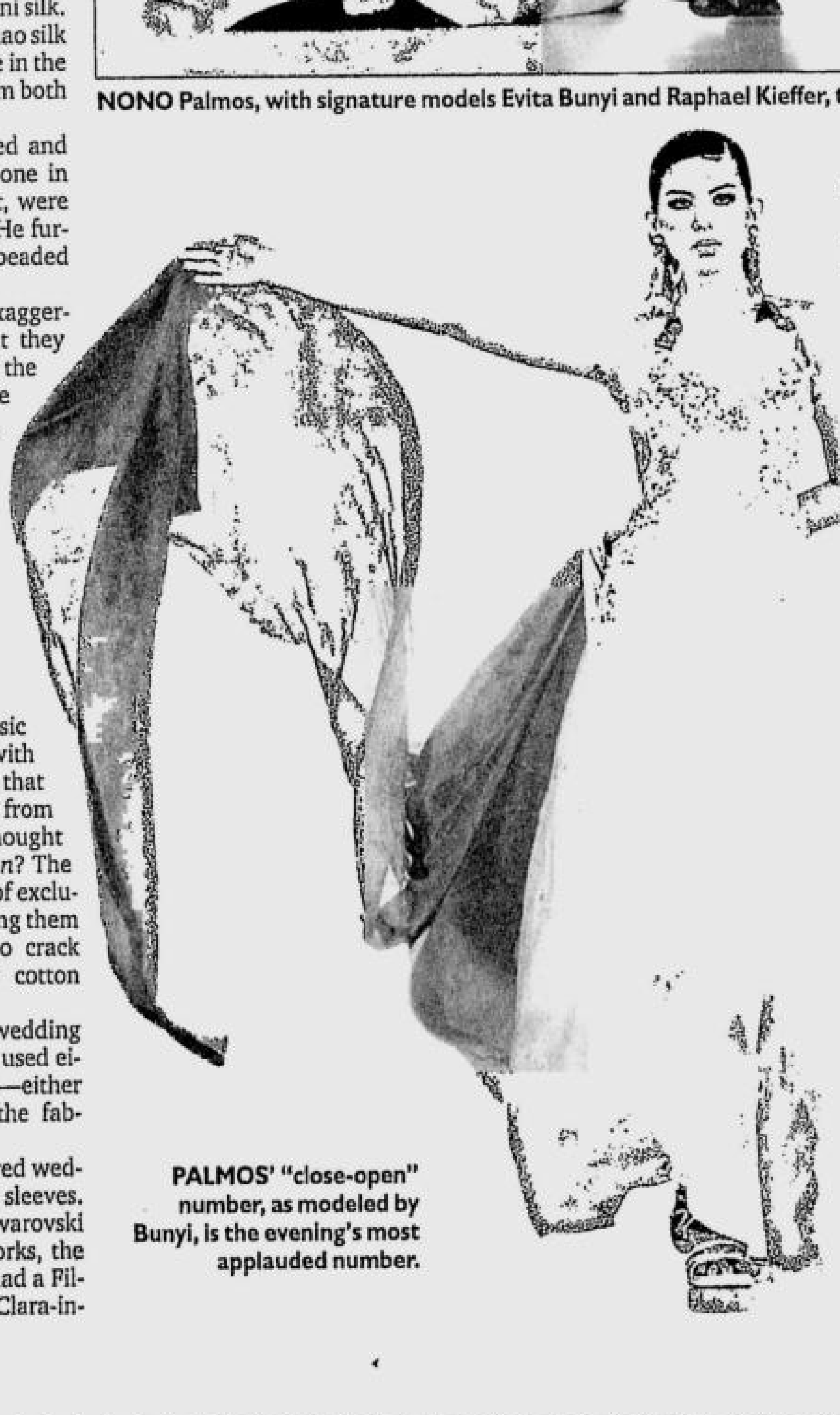
"I suddenly found myself saying yes," said an amused Palmos. "Nothing could be further from the truth."

Exclusive

Palmos also showed a pair of classic columns in purple and hot pink with scene-stealing, floor-length extensions that cascaded either from the shoulders or from the chest. Now, who would have thought they were fashioned from lowly *hablon*? The designer was able to give them an air of exclusivity and sophistication by embellishing them with various beads—from sequins to crack beads, Swarovski crystals and raw cotton fillers.

He showed not one, but three wedding gowns and a suit all made of *piña*. He used either Swarovski crystals or gold thread—either woven or inserted (*sinuksok*) into the fabric—to make them shine on stage.

Palmos made Ramirez wear a tailored wedding gown with fitted bodice and sleeves. Apart from the numerous bursts of Swarovski crystals that adorn it like mini fireworks, the A-line number with a thigh-high slit had a Filipino touch in the form of a Maria Clara-inspired collar.



PALMOS' "close-open" number, as modeled by Bunyi, is the evening's most applauded number.

His second wedding gown, a serpentine number with hints of mirror-like beadwork and a *piña* train adorned with dozens of rose-like swirls, drew inspiration from the 1950s. In fairness to the foreign model, she wore the sleeveless, scoop-necked creation with equal aplomb.

The designer saved his most elaborate piece, a classic, princess-cut wedding gown that emphasized the wearer's chest, for Bunyi, who was escorted by a dashing Kieffer in a three-piece suit also with gold thread insertions. The ensemble was easily one of the evening's most applauded numbers.

Palmos' moves to play to the gallery didn't end when he took a vow. Moments later he emerged outside the Shangri-la Kuala Lumpur's grand ballroom, the venue of most of the fashion shows, with Kieffer and Bunyi wearing different sets of Filipiniana attire.

The site of Palmos with two good-looking and towering Filipino models drew members of various media outfits and an assortment of well-wishers like a magnet. His efforts weren't in vain, as he earned a good number of inquiries from Malaysian fashionistas. A businessman even asked him to open a boutique in his mall.

"Ever since I did a show in New York four years ago," said Palmos, "I've always known that there's a big demand out there for contemporary pieces using the country's indigenous fabrics." The designer was again proven right in Malaysia.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

TIERED *jusi* number with extended straps is mistaken for a *terno* by one of Palmos' Malaysian fans.

HABLON number with scene-stealing, floor-length extensions

KIEFFER in a three-piece suit of *piña*

PALMOS (right), with brother Jorge, during a fitting session a day before the show

RAMIREZ is assisted by Palmos during rehearsals.

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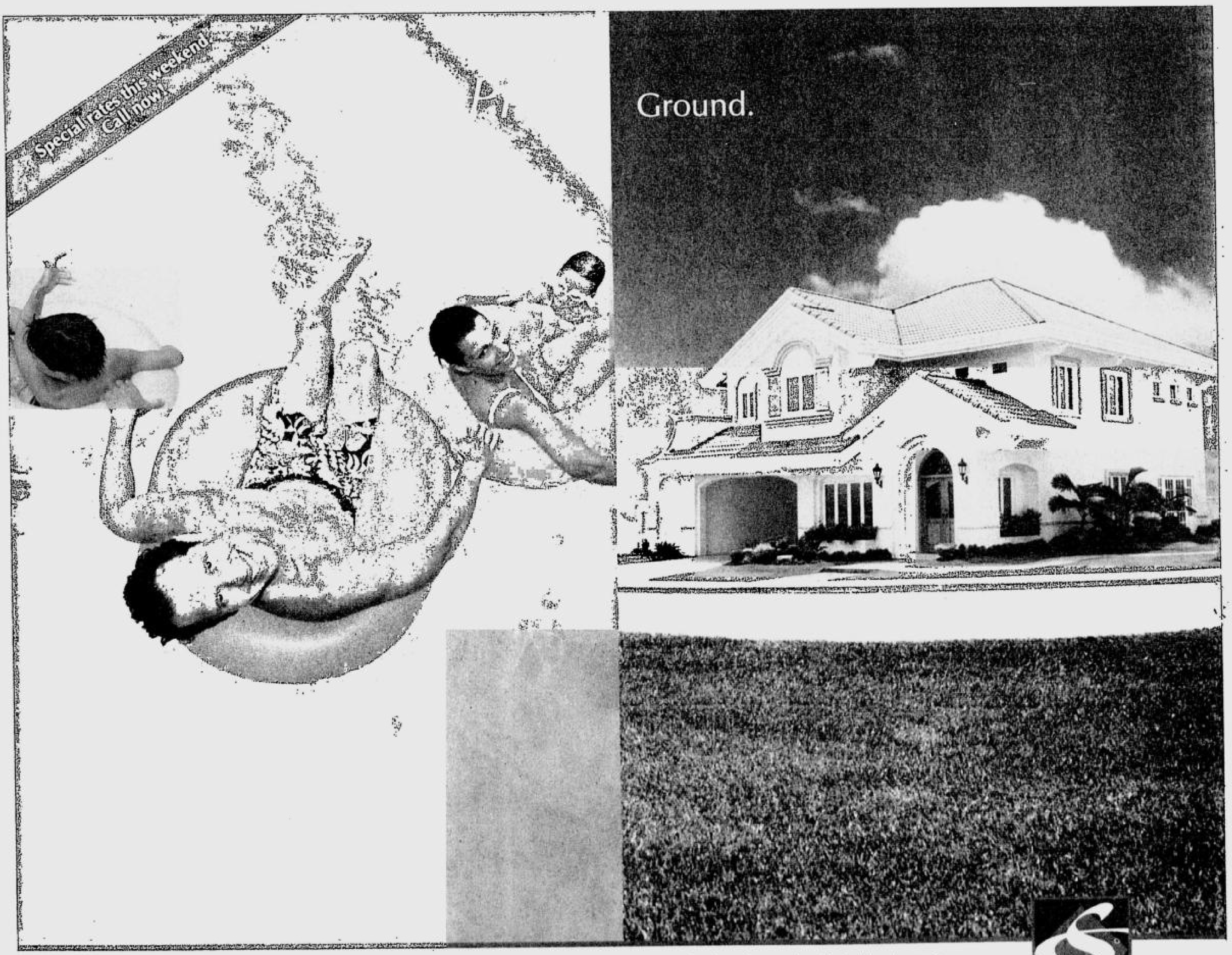

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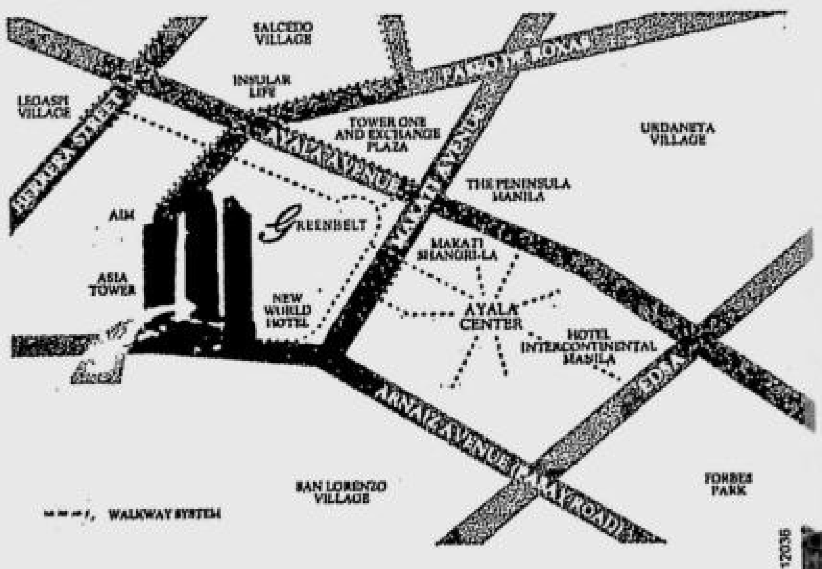
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Natasha, a wholly Filipino-owned company, is one of the country's leaders in the direct selling and networking industry. Since its inception in 1994, it has consistently offered the public locally manufactured products that are superior in quality yet are also affordable and accessible.

BACK-FITTED off-shoulder day top from Natasha, ideal for a get-together with family or friends.

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Hip, cool casuals

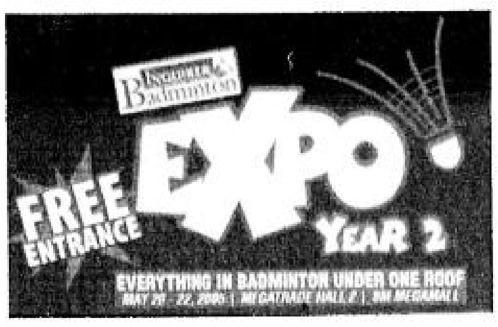
AT STUDIO Ritratto, guys can pick from a variety of hip and cool choices such as casual white shirts with texture and details to match their drawstring white slacks, or stylish polo shirts to match their denims.

Studio Ritratto offers coordinates for both men's and ladies' fashion in bright and muted colors, along with accessories like belts, brooches, chains and trendy beads.

Studio Ritratto's boutique is at G/L, Glorietta 1, Ayala Center, Makati City.

WHITE polo shirt with embossed vertical stripes matched with white drawstring pants

WHITE linen short-sleeved shirt with collar and embroidery detail on front opening, matched with linen pants



FRIDAY, MAY 20, 2005

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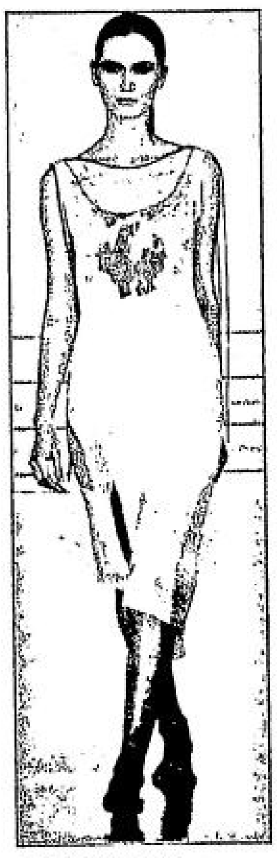
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DONNA Chew, Malaysia

CHEW

RICHARD Tsen, Malaysia

SALIKIN Sidek, Malaysia

ALLAN Chai, Singapore

Dressed to kill in KL

The KL Fashion Week is becoming a regional staple

Text by Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

ORGANIZERS of local fashion weeks can learn a great deal from their Malaysian counterparts, who recently staged the third KL Fashion Week in Kuala Lumpur. For the past two years, people behind the annual fashion extravaganza invited media persons and fashion designers from the world over to participate in the six-day event.

With assistance from Malaysia's tourism ministry and such sponsors as L'Oreal, Malaysia Airlines and Shangri-La KL, among others, managers and editors from the Star, Malaysia's leading English-language daily, invited colleagues from 25 international media outfits to cover the event. Organizers are aware, however, that flying in jaded fashion reporters for free to Malaysia is no guarantee that they'd be back again to cover next year's edition.

"I think we've been successful in inviting foreign media because they know that KL Fashion Week is worth covering," says Datin Linda Ngiam, deputy group GM of the Star. "They've heard and seen for themselves the quality of the clothes as well as the diverse lineup of designers. They know we take these things seriously."

As a way of raising the bar, organizers also invited 10 designers from such countries as Japan, Thailand, Vietnam, South Korea, Indonesia, Singapore, China, Hong Kong, India and the Philippines to show their clothes alongside those of Malaysian designers. As a bonus, each foreign designer was allowed to bring in two models.

Close to 50 Malaysian designers, the biggest in the event's three-year history, participated this year. They showed a wide range of styles and influences, ranging from

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Don't Make Me Wait For Love	Kenny G feat. Michael Bolton	waitforlove
Don't Know Why	Kenny G feat. David Benoit	dontknowy
How Could An Angel Break My Heart	Kenny G feat. Toni Braxton	howcouldangel
Careless Whisper	Kenny G feat. Brian McKnight	carelesswhisper

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The Look of Love	RA094	The Gift	RA346
Havana	RA058	Valentine	RA348
Paradise	RA086	Destiny	RA342
One More Time	RA083	Love Of My Life	RA343
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Dressed to kill in

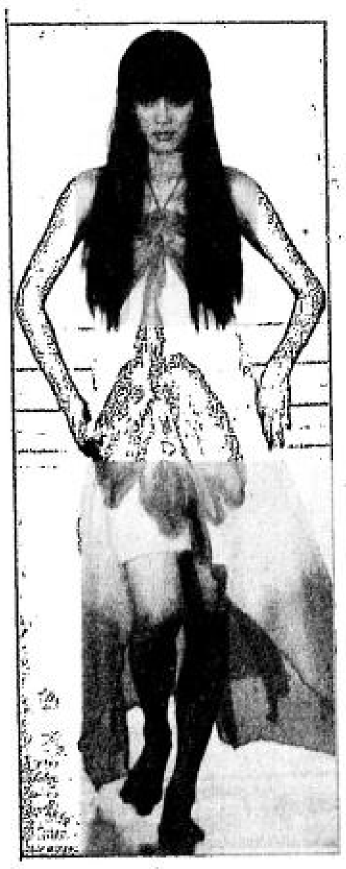
From page D1

modernized silhouettes using ethnic fabrics (Salikin Sidek) to floaty, girly girl creations with every imaginable technique and embellishment thrown in (Beatrice Looi).

A number of designers also resorted to theatrics, from warped images culled from Japanese pop culture (Richard Tsen) to surreal black-and-white sequences with a tinge of medieval drama (Melinda Looi), to advance their fashion statements.

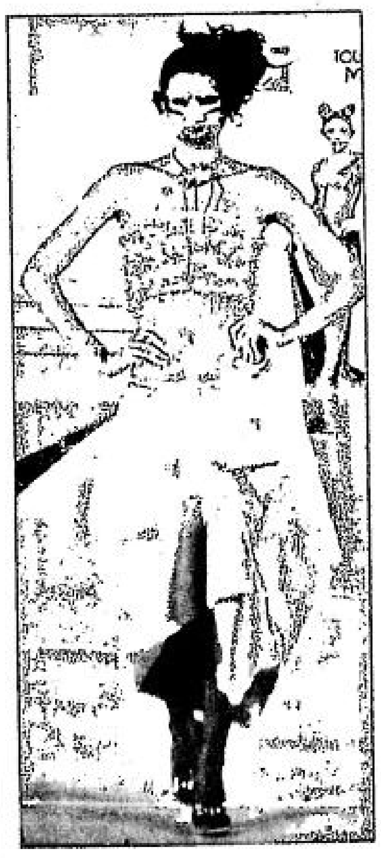
For the second year, we caught the latest collection of Malaysia's "batik queen" Tom Abang Saufi, a number of which incorporated printed chiffon with denim and other contemporary fabrics designed to appeal to a younger market. Craven Ong, on the other hand, drew inspiration from the Himalayas in embellishing his multipiece collection in bright, jewel colors.

DRESSED/ D4


LIANG Zhi

PIPS Fashion, Malaysia

CRAVEN Ong, Malaysia


RICHARD Tsen, Malaysia

TOM Abang Saufi, Malaysia

-round fun

w Family Wagon

th lifestyle space and transport fun need look no further than Suzuki's all-
ance is dynamic proof that power's not the only ingredient in driving
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The wagon for every motoring need.

he new Suzuki APV All-Purpose Vehicle has all the essential features that make it the most versatile people-hauler in the market today.

the uninitiated, Suzuki is a world-class and spectable automaker from Japan whose top iority in designing vehicles is versatility. Which why the vehicles that Suzuki has brought into e Philippines are those that have the ability to ansport not just people but also their cargo. e Samurai, the Vitara, the Esteem Wagon, the mny, the Grand Vitara and the XL_7 are all fine amples of vehicles that serve multiple urposes in spite of their relatively compact zes. One can say that Suzuki is indeed in the siness of building all-around vehicles.

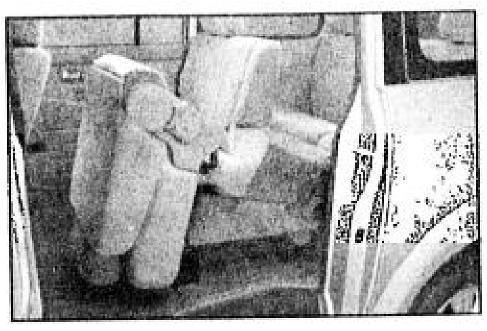
uzuki carries on this tradition of versatility as it unches the all-new Suzuki APV All-Purpose hicle family wagon. Comfortably seating eight ssengers within small, space-saving mensions, the APV All-Purpose Vehicle presents Suzuki's new philosophy in tomotive design, which the company calls obile living." Simply put, it means that Suzuki nts its customers to experience the warm, zy atmosphere of their home even when they on the road. Indeed, passengers can now recreate the ambiance of their dwelling place right inside a moving vehicle.

With the APV All-Purpose Vehicle, Suzuki believes, it has come up with the perfect vehicle for the typical Asian family. Already, the vehicle has been introduced in Thailand, Indonesia, and here in the Philippines. Seeing that Asians are family-oriented people who like the idea of traveling together as one big, happy bunch, Suzuki is positioning the APV All-Purpose **Vehicle as the main model that will spearhead its new thrust to conquer Southeast Asian markets.**

With the 1.6-liter, 16-valve gasoline engine combined with a 5-speed manual (GL) or 4-speed automatic (GLX) transmission, the Suzuki APV All-Purpose Vehicle further indicates that not only does it have the right physical size but also the right engine displacement. This translates to impressive fuel efficiency, and it couldn't have come at a better time when fuel prices are rising to record levels.

The Suzuki APV All-Purpose Vehicle rides on compact and lightweight MacPherson struts in front and wide leaf springs at the back. This suspension design is geared toward straight-line stability as well as flexibility in handling a full range of driving demands. Meanwhile, the high groud clearance of 170 millimeters ensures that this wagon will not have a hard time clearing floods.

For passenger safety, sure-stopping ventilated front disc brakes and dependable rear drum brakes complement Suzuki's TECT (Total Effective Control Technology) crumple-zone protection and side-impact beams. For security, the Suzuki APV All-Purpose Vehicle is equipped with a keyless entry system with hazard-lamp answer-back function.



When the third-row seats are stowed, the Suzuki APV All-Purpose Vehicle rear portion is able to accommodate up to 714 liters of cargo. This only adds to the vehicle's versatility, making it the perfect mode of transport when traveling as a group.

Despite all these top-of-the-line features, the Suzuki APV All-Purpose Vehicle is one of the most affordable models in the all-purpose vehicle class. It is distributed in the country by Suzuki Philippines, Incorporated, a wholly-owned company of Suzuki Motor Corp. Ltd. of Japan.

SUZUKI

Way of Life !

New Family Wagon

APV

Mobile living

PIPS Fashion, Malaysia

CRAVEN Ong

EDMUND Ser, Malaysia

BEATRICE Looi, Malaysia

BEATRICE Looi

Dressed to kill in KL

BLANC de Chine, Hong Kong

MELINDA Looi, Malaysia

MELINDA Looi

TOM Abang Saufi, Malaysia

PIPS Fashion

From page D2

Designers behind Pips Fashion showed a wide range of Western-inspired evening pieces that made use of traditional batik and combined it with such materials as chiffon, jersey and faux fur. The group's off-the-rack pieces looked forward to autumn (definitely not in KL) with denim and clingy pieces made of various knitted materials.

"I believe fashion can't exist in isolation," says Ngiam. "You'll never know how good you are if you're only competing yourself with the guy next door. We want to bring the best from other countries as a way for our local designers to know where they stand."

Directory

Participating designers' mailing addresses, contact numbers and pictures of their best works were compiled in a directory, something organizers of Philippine Fashion Week are either hard put or negligent to produce. (How can the hapless designer in this country expect to expand his market beyond existing clients when something as basic as a directory with his name and address on it doesn't exist?)

And in the next year or two, the Star is thinking of bringing in foreign buyers for the first time. The first three years, says Ngiam, were spent laying the groundwork and building a reputation for KL as a shopping and fashion hub.

"The first three years were spent preparing our designers," she says. "We make it a point to meet with them after every fashion week and remind them to be ready. There's no point in bringing in buyers prematurely and risk them getting disappointed. Our designers have to be ready to deliver."

At the same time, both private and public sectors in Malaysia know that a thriving fashion industry eventually equates to more tourism dollars—something our very own Department of Tourism has yet to tap into. But fashion, no matter how creative one's pool of designers is, can never thrive beyond a country's borders without sincere and concerted government support.

"Shopping for clothes and traveling go hand in hand," says Ngiam. "Fashion like tourism is lifestyle-related. There are more people who travel today for both business and leisure than at any point in our history. I believe the desire to look good transcends age, nationality and religion."

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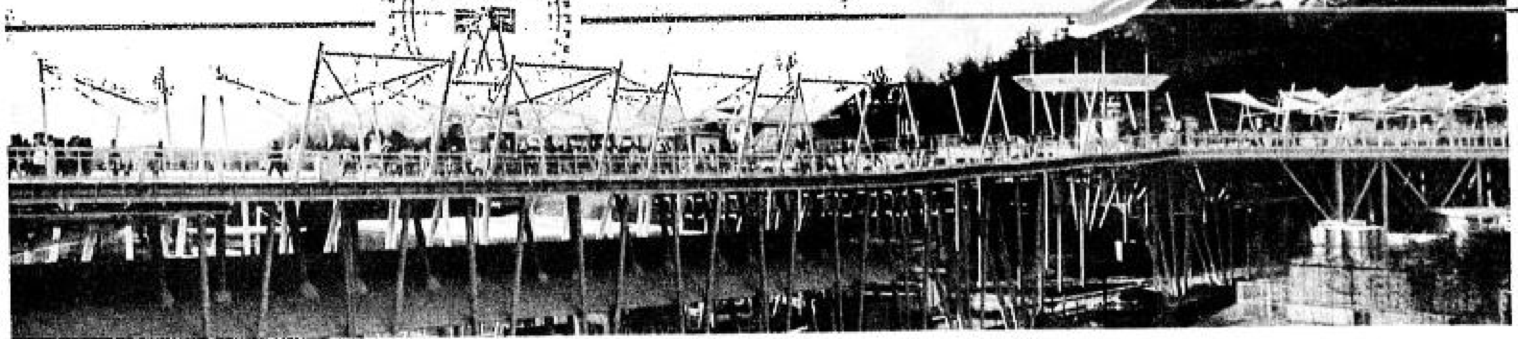

WORLD Expo has 2.6-km walkway connecting exhibits, elevated to avoid destruction of trees.

A unique idea and design make the Philippine pavilion a hit in the World Expo in Aichi

Giving the world a massage

LIFE-STYLED

Thelma Sioson San Juan

WE MISSED by only a day or two the cherry blossoms that Jullie Yap Daza wanted so much to see. We left Nagoya just when the trees were wearing color again—ashen white, powdery pink, nearly-peach pink—the colors so in in both nature and fashion. But Jullie was nonetheless content with, even ecstatic, at the sight of the early plum blossoms at the foot of Nagoya castle.

PHILIPPINE pavilion facade designed by Ed Calma showing woven strips with perforation. It depicts cross-section of the coconut.

Japan is special for it was in Tokyo, years ago, that my son spent some time as a toddler who fell in love with the train and the subway. He must be a rare creature who loved the Tokyo subway more than Disneyland, and has a stronger memory of the former. Since that Tokyo childhood, he has taken to subways like fish to water.

It was then that we saw up close every day the Japanese culture and design tradition, their work ethic and honorific demeanor, even their addiction to retail (shopping). (Honestly, it is a highly refined culture that doesn't deserve Hollywood's lampoon of the Japanese.)

This April trip, we felt again the Japanese culture of perfection at the World Expo '05 sprawled on over 150 hectares of rolling hills, mountains and rich agricultural landscape in Aichi, Nagoya.

With over 120 countries participating, the Expo has adopted the theme "Nature's Wisdom"—how the technological world can learn from nature, sustain and uphold it in the 21st century instead of defiling it.

It is interesting that Japan, whose economic power was fueled by its technological might, would lead this reconciliation with nature. Vast the Expo ground may be, all its pavilions are modular and can be collapsed when the

GIVING/ E2

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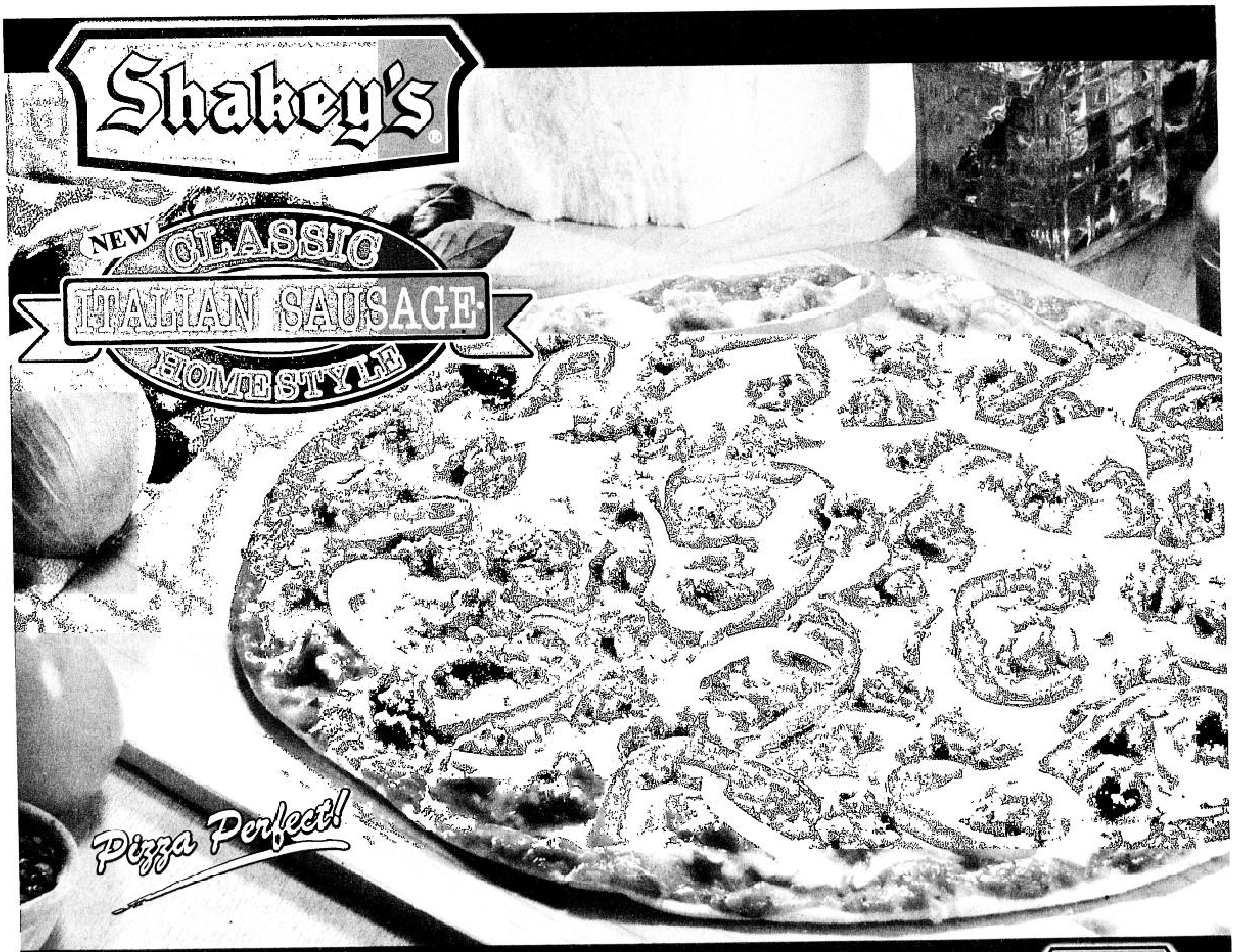

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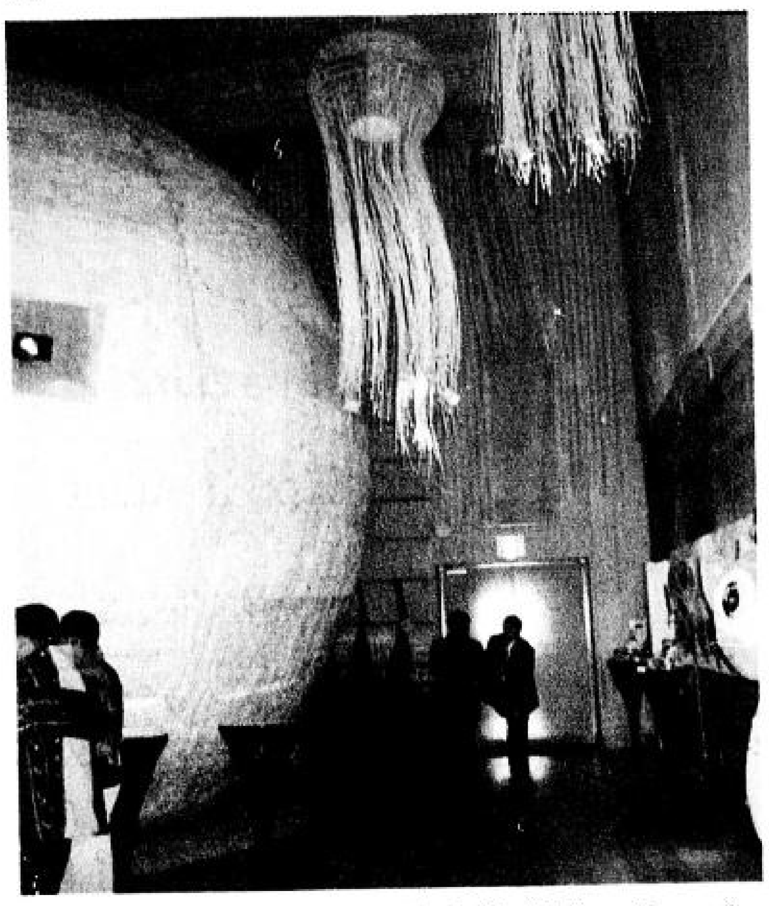
CENTERPIECE of the Philippine pavilion is the "Wellness Cocoon," a giant sphere made of 76,000 coconut tiles.

Giving the world a massage

From page E1

Expo ends on Sept. 25. It follows the principle of "reduce, reuse and recycle." Its 2.6 km-long corridor, known as the Global Loop, connecting all the exhibits, was built as an elevated walk precisely to avoid cutting down trees or filling in ponds.

In the Expo food courts, the tableware is made of "biomass" derived from plants and other organic materials. After use, the tableware is decomposed into water and carbon dioxide.

Aichi is home to both high technology and nature. It is the No. 1 producer of roses and chrysanthemums in Japan and is also the headquarters of Toyota.

The Japan pavilion, which reportedly cost $120 million to build, is a new awesome experience. In a pitch-dark cavernous hall, one walks on a transparent bridge and suddenly the sky lights up with millions of stars, the ground under your feet moves or seems to move, and you find yourself as if floating in the universe. This is the world's first all-sky video system covering 360 degrees; you're in this sphere, in the bosom of the earth and hurtling through the galaxy.

Where is the Philippines in all this? In a small but uniquely designed place. The Philippine Pavilion manages to stand alongside giants through a neat and ingenious design revolving around the coconut, and through a smart come-on: free massage. Ours must be the only pavilion offering a spa and aromatherapy. How much more natural, organic can you get? It's a simple idea that goes a long, long way.

AT THE WELLNESS Cocoon, Tourism Attaché Val Cabansag, pavilion director Arcie Soriano, Ces Drilon and Assistant Tourism Secretary Edu Jarque

Master stroke

That was a master stroke by the Philippine Inter-Agency Preparatory Committee, composed of officials from various government agencies, with **Rosvi Gaetos** as Expo Commissioner General, **Arcie Soriano** as pavilion director and Tourism Attaché in Osaka **Val Cabansag**.

We may not have the hi-tech special effects to lure the Expo visitors (majority of them Japanese), but we can offer what we have plenty of: the warm human touch and the fragrance of our sampaguita, ylang-ylang and other aromatic essences and oils. Physical therapists from Shangri-La Mactan, The Farm in San Benito, Slimmers World give the visitors free massage. The Expo visitors, tired from walking all day, walked into the giant sphere inside the pavilion—the cocoon of health and wellness—to get the massage. Even Jullie and Tourism Assistant Secretary **Edu Jarque** had theirs.

Good concept

The pavilion's concept is *usbong* (seed). It's graphically represented by the coconut. Architect **Ed Calma**, who designed the pavilion, came up with light-colored monochromatic interiors of bleached coconut wood flooring, and walls and ceilings made of diaphanous fabrics from **Jeannie Goulbourn**'s Silk Cocoon. The walls and ceilings double as screens for film installation by **Butch Perez** showing our rites and rituals, tourist destinations and the like.

The chandeliers are jelly fish-like contraptions Calma fashioned out of native material.

The centerpiece is the sphere made of 76,000 pieces of coconut tiles cut from 38,000 coconuts.

Inside this "Wellness Cocoon" the guests can sit on the ledge running around the sphere and rest their backs on the wall covered with abaca fiber—a stimulating texture. This cocoon showcases our indigenous aromatic oils and essences the guests can get a whiff of. It pampers the senses. Up on the mezzanine is the massage.

The cocoon is sensual as the exhibit is cerebral, showcasing our artifacts, antique gold jewelry, ethnic weave, butterflies preserved under the glass, the smallest fresh water fish in the world reproduced in silver, even the barbed wire from the Edsa Revolution in '86, you just wish the Expo market could relate to all that.

Apart from the spa, we noticed the visitors also queued for **Glenda Barretto**'s cuisine at the food service station called "Latik."

E-mail the author at thelma_ssanjuan@abs.pinoycentral.com

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Session Chair: **Dr. Nick C. Fontanilla**
President, The Asia Pacific Center for Research

Keynote Address
Mr. Robert de Ocampo
President, Asian Institute of Marketing

Session One:
A Business Philosophy for Extreme Marketing: Pushing Your Limits in a Crisis Economy
Speaker: **Mr. Bienvenido Policarpio**
Executive Vice President, Prudential Group of Companies
President, Dale Carnegie Philippines

Session Two:
Customer Relationship Management: Building Technology to the Extreme
Speaker: **Mr. Mark Yambot**
Director for Corporate Affairs, Microsoft Philippines, Inc.

Session Three:
Pain Makes Gains: Pharmaceutical Companies Going Beyond Pain
Speaker: **Mr. Carlos "Do" Ejercito**
President, United Laboratories Group

Session Four:
The New Empire: Shaping the Future of High-Rise Condominiums
Speaker: **Mr. Luke Tan**
Director, Investor Relation, Megaworld

Session Five:
Challenging Global Brands through Sports Marketing Events
Speaker: **Mr. Christophe Bezu**
Senior Vice President, Adidas-Salomon AG, Hong Kong

For full programme schedule and other details:
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Cell: 0916-714-1713
Email: sarahpv@pldtdsl.net
pma@philonline.com

Day 2 : May 26, 2005
Session Chair: **Dr. Karen De Asis**
Marketing Consultant
Marketing Director, La Salle Graduate School

Session Six:
Mega Formulas for Extreme Marketing from a Marketing Guru
Speaker: **Mr. Hermawan Kartajaya**
President & Leading Service Officer, MarkPlus&Co.

Session Seven:
Advertising Convergence: Bringing Filipino Consumers Closer to the Brand through Humor
Speaker: **Mr. Joselito B. Ortega**
Chairman & CEO, BrandLab, Inc.

Session Eight:
The New Imperative in Today's Convergence in Marketing: Sustainable Growth
Speaker: **Mr. Gavin Coombes**
Vice President, Euro RSCG Asia Pacific

Session Nine:
Mall Mania: Shop Until You Drop!
Speaker: **Ms. Grace F. Magno**
Head of Marketing, Araneta Group of Companies

Session Ten:
New Rules in Market Leadership: Success Stories in Non-traditional Bank Marketing
Speaker: **Mr. Tomas Victor Mendoza**
SAVP, Banco de Oro Universal Bank

Session Eleven:
Creativity on the Edge: Media & Marketing Convergence
Speaker: **Mr. Nicanor C. Gabunada**
Senior Vice President for Integrated Sales & Marketing, ABS-CBN Broadcasting Company

Closing Session:
The Road to Recovery through Market Convergence
Speaker: **Mr. Jose Jesus F. Roces**
Professor, Asian Institute of Management (AIM)
President, Asia Pacific Marketing Federation (APMF)

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Buy the right bra

ONCE a girl begins to have breasts, getting a bra is a must, especially when she exercises, plays sports or leads an active lifestyle.

Finding a bra that fits one well is very important. A bra that is not the right size can ride up, dig in, or even pop open. The straps can slide off a girl's shoulders or dig into them.

Here are a few helpful tips when buying a bra for teens, from Barbizon:

Buy the right type of bra for your needs. There are many types of bras; first or training, light support, full support, strapless, push up and sports bras, plus many more.

Barbizon carries all these types of bras. It's just a matter of finding the right one for you depending on what you are wearing and what your activity will be while wearing it. ,

Know your correct size. Getting your bra size is far from being an exact science. Ask your mother or the sales lady in the store to help you measure your size. Just remember that if your size is 34B but a 36A bra fits you better, then go right ahead and buy the more comfortable one for you!

Use the appropriate color bra for the clothes you are wearing. Bras come in all sorts of different colors or prints. For school, especially if wearing a uniform, it is best to stick to the basic colors: white, peach or skin tone.

Always put comfort on the list of what to look for in a bra. It is very important to wear a bra that is comfortable for you as you actually spend more time wearing a bra than not. Barbizon Teens' Bras are made from fabrics that are meant to embrace your skin gently while designed to provide support without being constricting.

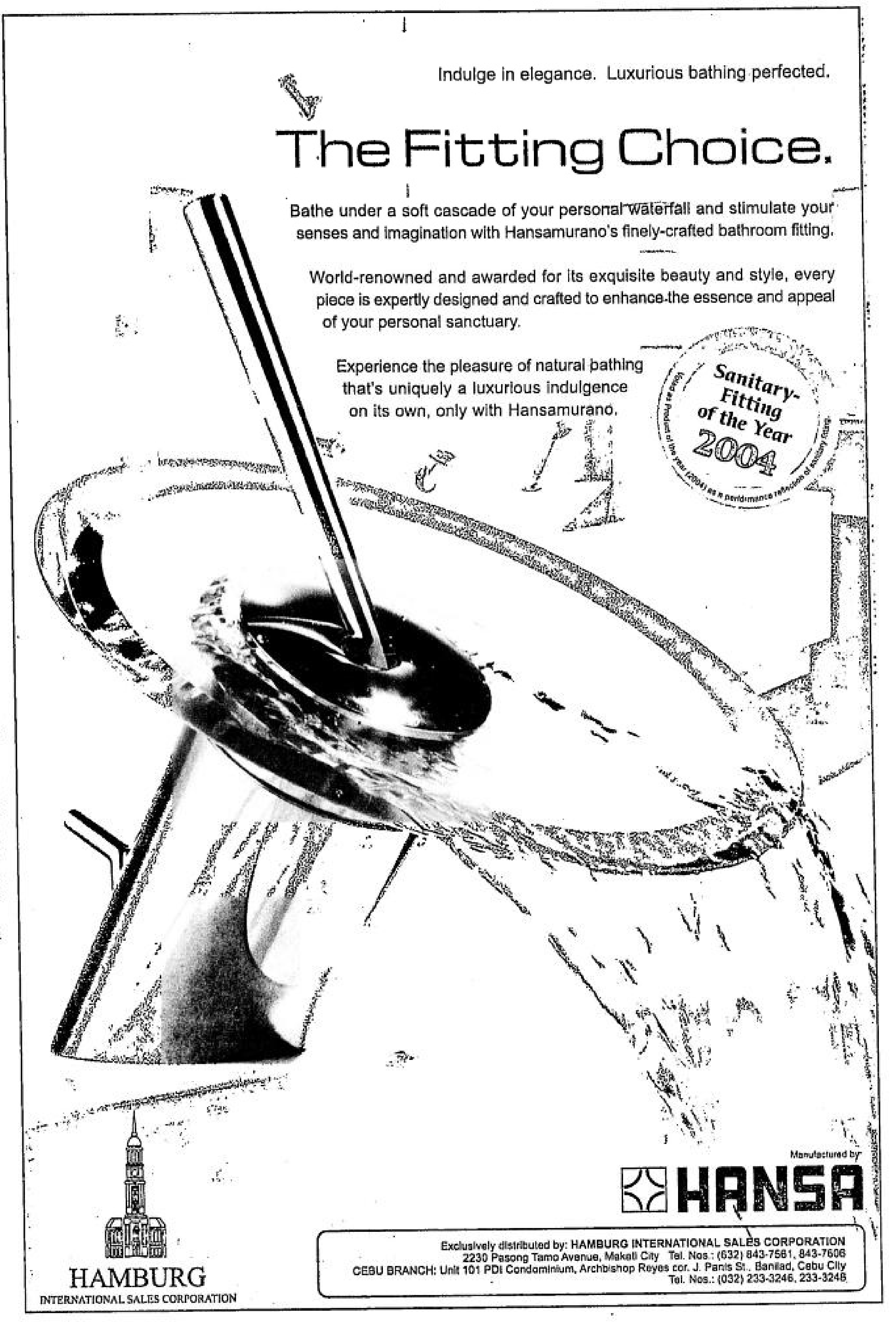
Buy bras according to your budget. The most expensive doesn't always necessarily mean the best. Barbizon carries Teens' Bras from P89.75 to 159.75, affordable enough to buy three or four at once but with the quality that will last throughout the toughest days of school.

Check out Barbizon bras today in the Barbizon intimate apparel boutique at the 2/L Ali Mall, and in stores such as Robinsons Department Stores, The Landmark, Shopwise and Super SM Hypermarts in Sucat, Bicutan and Marilao. Barbizon intimate apparel is also available in all other major department stores nationwide.

Visit www.barbizonfashion.com or email barbizon@barbizonfashion.com.

HOMEWORK again! At least I'm comfortable in my Barbizon Teens' Bra.

BEDROOM
Teens



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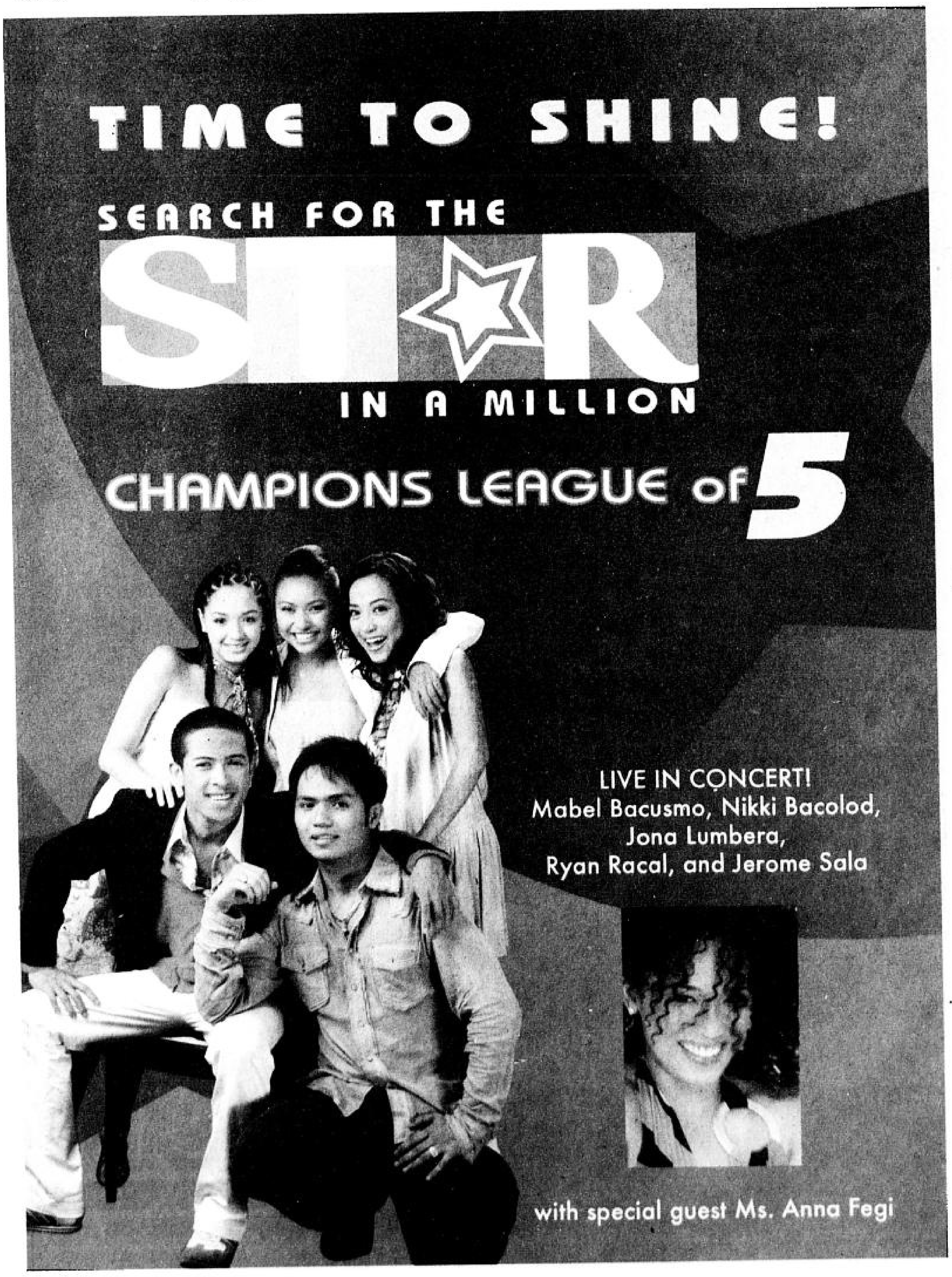

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CHAMPIONS LEAGUE of 5

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Jona Lumbera,
Ryan Racal, and Jerome Sala

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Also showing at Metropoint on May 28, 4pm
Pavilion on May 29, 6pm
Market Market on June 2, 6pm

Rachy Cuna floral demo today

STYLIST Rachy Cuna will give a demo-workshop on May 20 on flower arrangements, fresh, dried or artificial at Borders in Makati City. Pre-registration is required and a minimal fee will be charged.
Borders is at the G/F, GE Philippines Bldg., Pasong Tamo Extension, Makati; store hours 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Monday-Saturday. Call 8932905 or 8932908.

GOINGS ON

CHOICE AWARDS. The Nickelodeon's Kids Choice Awards is back. So kids, keep your votes coming and show your favorites in movies, music, TV, sports and more! Then check out the biggest kids' awards party at NBC Tent, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig on May 22 and meet your favorite stars. Nominations are still going on. Deadline for sending your votes is on May 21.

CONCERT. Paco Park Presents features the group of Mary Hazel Toledo (percussion), Mary Dulce D'Bayan (piano), Ma. Florence Aguilar (voice) and Erwin Miranda (piano) tonight at 6. Admission is free.

DANCE CONCERT. The Claravall School of Classical Ballet presents "Sleeping Beauty" tomorrow, 6 p.m., at Tanghalang Nicanor Abelardo. Tickets are priced at P200 and P100. Call 8259980.

FUNDRAISER. Mother Rosa Memorial Foundation and the Assumpta Alumnae present "The Flintstones" in a dance concert at Grand Palazzo Royale Ballroom, Friendship Highway, Angeles City tonight at 8. Proceeds of the show will go to the Assumpta Technical High School in San Simon, Pampanga. Call 8925808/ 45-8888055.

SEMINAR. The Federation of Philippine Photographers Foundation holds an art seminar until today at Fort Santiago, Intramuros, Manila. Cecilia Angeles, professor, painter and photographer, is the lecturer. Call 8435341/ 8137420.

FOOD FEST. Bicol region's rich culinary tradition takes centerstage at Siram Bicol 2005 food festival today until May 22 at Landco Pacific Mall in Legazpi City. Call 0917-6280129/ 0919-7715209.

BALLET. The More Than Dance School is Ballet at the Park's third offering for its 2005 season tomorrow, 6 p.m., at Rizal Park open-air auditorium, Manila. Admission is free.

SHOW. The Carter Underwear Fashion Show is slated tomorrow, 7 p.m., at Araneta Coliseum. Models include Paolo Bediones, Mark Herras, Hans Montenegro, Raymond Bagatsing, Brad Turvey, Jennilyn Mercado, Andrea del Rosario and Chinggay Andrada.

WORKSHOP. Meditation expert Helma Schipper will conduct Awakening the Third Eye workshop tomorrow and on May 22, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Call 6562579/ 09208511917.

FAIR. Pet One mounts Puppy Luv a Fair tomorrow and on May 22 at Plaza Strip, Rockwell Power Plant Mall, Makati. Different puppy breeds will be showcased while top dog breeders will give lectures. Call 4155413/ 3730537.

WORKSHOPS. BusinessMaker Academy holds workshops on Beaded Bags, May 21; Beads Crochet, May 24; Beaded Furnishings, May 26; and Bead Sculpture, May 31. The academy is located at Suite 1503A West Tower, Philippine Stock Exchange, Exchange Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig. Call 6874445/ 6873416.

WORKSHOP. Starland Theme Park and Resort will hold a Clay Molding workshop on May 22 at its activity area. Starland is located at the 4/L Metropolis Star Alabang, Muntinlupa. Call 8504283.

MUSICAL. Concert at the Park presents the Angono Wind Ensemble in "Lahing Angono" on May 22, 6 p.m., at Rizal Park open-air auditorium in Manila. Admission is free.

SEMINAR. The Federation of Philippine Photographers Foundation will hold a photography seminar for kids aged 7-12 on May 24-26 at Fort Santiago, Intramuros, Manila. Call 8435341/ 8137420.

FUNDRAISER. The Lucena Varsitarians will hold a dinner-dance affair to fund its scholarship program for indigent elementary and high school students of Quezon. Benny Brizuela is the event's organizing chairman. The event is on May 29, 6 p.m., at Quezon Convention Center in Lucena City. Call 7212803/ 7266647.

Bohemian Revival
at SM Boutiques

The Bohemian revival is fashion's elixir. Bold, beautiful and boho, it indulges the senses with the feel of layered fabrics, prints and colors.

The flirtatiousness of gauzy, billowy blouses and tiered skirts, and the luxury of glittery sequined tops in bold and beautiful colors like gold, fuschia, emerald greens, rich and earthy ochre, tans and bronze, give it a touch of gypsy mystery.

Accessorize with exotic faux gems, strands of pearls, jewel encrusted bags and sensuous silk bandanas, this season's must-haves at SM Boutiques.

Bold & Beautiful From daytime casuals to glammed- up evenings, there's a Boho look to be had and explored.

Chic & Casual Faded jeans paired with empire-waisted or sequined tops, sexy sandals and glittery gems in citrine, turquoise and emeralds complete your daytime look.

Mysterious For romantic evenings or a girls' night out, dress up in Le Bohemme glamour. Flowy tiered skirts (a must-have silhouete), paisely printed tops, luxurious gems and earthy copper bangles is the perfect evening look.

available at SM Boutiques (Makati, Ortigas, Las Pinas, North Edsa, Cebu, Cubao, Fairview, Bacoor, Mandurriao, Manila,

LIFESTYLE

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Inquirer life name/age/city/message to
2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Pond's launches the Face Revolution with a hot, hot party in Boracay

POND'S Women Kelly Misa, Georgina Wilson and Nicole Hernandez

BORGY Manotoc excites the crowd with his fabulous bod and amazing moves.

Tall and tan and young and lovely

By Gem Padilla
Contributor

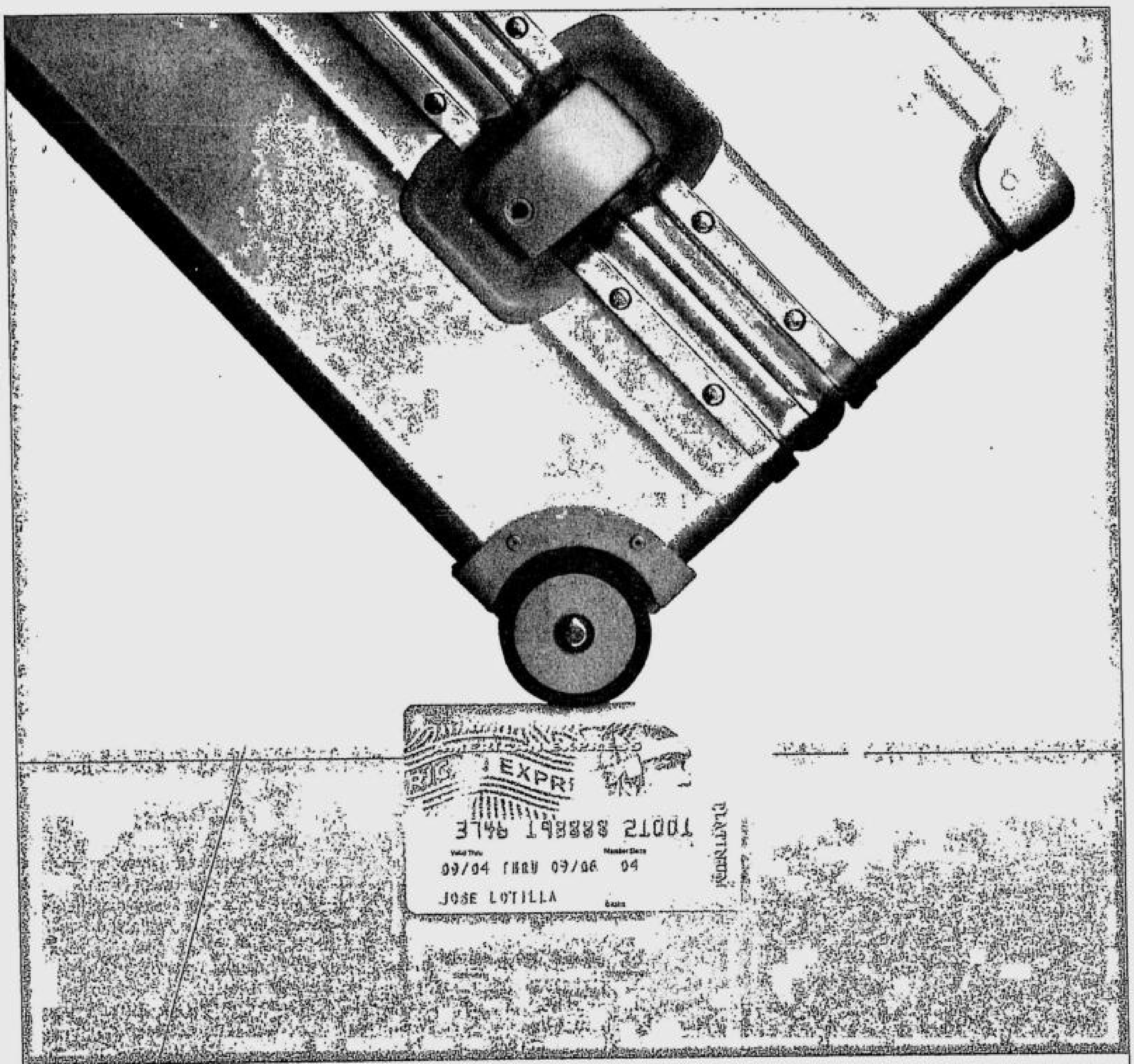
FOR YEARS and years, it seems like I have attended most of the Pond's events in various incarnations, first as a talent, then as a spectator, and now as a media person.

Finally and for the first time in all these years, I got to attend a Pond's event that did not require me to get all dolled up; no fancy shoes, no little black dress.

In spite of the oppressive heat last May 6, in Boracay where Pond's launched the Face Revolution and presented the Deep Clean Routine, the atmosphere was quite laid-back.

Guests hung out, walking about in their Havaianas, the ladies in their sarongs and tube

TALL/ F3



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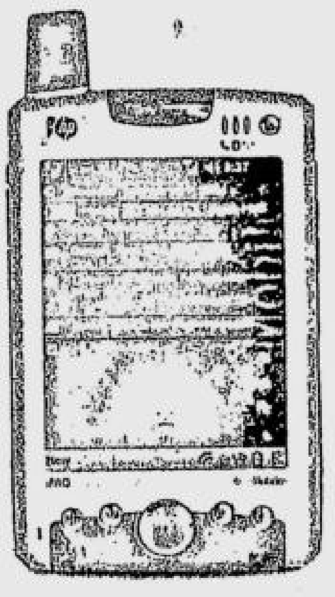

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1. Trade in any working/non-working brand of a GSM mobile phone* or PDA*.
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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A3-362, Series of 2005

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HOSTESS with the mostest Letty Syquia

EL SIMPATICO Oscar Piquinela, Consul Señora Amelia Ablaza, Alejandro Maldonado, Jaime Martinez, lawyer Ed de Vega, Marc Ablaza and his talented brother Jun-Jun Ablaza

PHILHEALTH president Francisco Duque III, business magnate and host of the affair Louie Ablaza, Dr. Jofe Syquia and Julio Lowenthal

MARGOT Yora, Czarina, statuesque Latin beauty Carina Galvanisi and elegant Carol Duque

LATIN SHAKERS. The Guatemalan delegates and women: Jaime Martinez, Alejandro Maldonado, hostess of the affair Amelia "Mellie" Ablaza, Zury Rios-Mortt de Weller, Julio Lowenthal and Edgar Arevalo

Pinoy-Guatemalan Latin fiesta!

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by **Alex Van Hagen** using **Kodak** EasyShare system

SHE'S one of the country's most active charity workers. She's also one of the most glamorous of Manille's top hostesses with the mostest. She is also the dedicated honorary consul of the Republic of Guatemala, *palanggas*. She's none other than **Amelia "Mellie" Romero Ablaza.**

Living up to her name, Mellie, together with her husband (who collects the big boy's favorite toys—cars), gave an elegant sit-down reception at their sprawling residence, for the Guatemala delegation to the 112th Inter-Parliamentary Union Assembly.

The five-man delegation was headed by **Alejandro Maldonado** with **Zury Rios-Montt de Weller, Julio Lowenthal**, Edgar Arevalo, and **Jaime Martinez** as members.

During cocktails the hotshots couldn't praise enough the rich, cool décor of the living room, done especially for this occasion by the hostess's son, the gifted **Jun-Jun Ablaza,** *palanggas*.

Après all the toasting, the chi-chi diplomatic set sat for a sit-down dinner, superbly prepared by one of Mellie's favorite caterers, **Millie Reyes** of The Plaza, natch. As usual, Millie R. came up with a cocktail-cum-dinner menu that left the invitees, swearing to go on a crash diet for a week!

Over dinner, Mellie asked the invitees to join her in a toast, for the "lasting spirit of friendship and cooperation between the Republic of the Philippines and the Republic of Guatemala, and for the health and prosperity of their Excellencies, President Macapagal-Arroyo and President **Oscar Berger Perdomo.**"

Then it was time to shake those calories off, with the guests dancing to the Pasamba Quartette dance music. The Pinoys and Latinos shook their booty to the cha-cha, tango and tons of other Latin tunes, *palanggas*.

Samsung miracle

Scorsese, Lucas and **Spielberg**, beware. The age of hi-tech consumer items has definitely arrived and now all can make their wildest movie dreams come true!

Samsung Electronics Phils. Corp. makes dreams come true with the launch of its amazing "Miniket," a mini-sized tapeless camcorder, which also functions as a digital still camera, mp3 player, a webcam, a voice recorder and a portable data storage device!

The happening took place at the Ayala Museum, where the hottest names in broadcast, electronics and entertainment came.

The Samsung Miniket wowed audiences at the recently held Cebit trade show in Hannover, Germany.

For its Philippine launch, three top directors premiered their own short movies especially shot just for the evening, using the Miniket, *natch*.

Multi-awarded movie and commercial director **Mark Meily** highlighted Miniket's special effects capabilities in a funny and twisted work focusing on his own face.

Sid Maderazo, a young hotshot director of commercials, illustrated just how portable and easy the Miniket is in his work, "The World is a Stage."

Music video man and punk proselytizer, **RA Rivera,** did a black-and-white video of his band, Pedicab, showing that "the Miniket is quite capable of straddling the cutting edge."

We were all amazed by the little product .

The entertainment was provided by the Akafellas and concert king **Martin Nievera.** who knocked our socks off. **Joel Trinidad** hosted the affair, *palanggas*.

Samsung 's new president and CEO, **Hyuck Jae Shim,** welcomed us with a short talk, then a raffle was held and the big winner was super-nice **Illac Diaz.**

It definitely was an impressive launch, perfect for the impressive new "it" gadget of the season; the awesome 6-in-1 Samsung Miniket! Check it out!

New hospital partnership

Asian Hospital will once again set a new standard in the healthcare industry through its partnership with Bangkok-based healthcare expert, Bumrungrad International.

The partnership was announced during a cocktail event dubbed as "Power of Two: Partnership for World-class Hospital Care."

The spotlight was focused on the movers of Asian Hospital led by founding chair, Dr. **Jorge Garcia,** and chair **Vicente Ayllon,** with Bumrungrad's chair, **Chai Sophonpanich,** and group CEO **Curtis Schroeder.**

Among the distinguished guests were former President **Fidel V. Ramos,** former Finance Secretary **Jose Pardo** and Filinvest Alabang chair **Andrew Gotianun Sr.**

Also gracing the event were **Celia Diaz Laurel, Francisco Duque III** of PhilHealth, **Aquiles Lopez** and good-looking twin doctors, **Romeo** and **Arnel Nuguid.**

Asian Hospital and Bumrungrad International hope to attract patients from Asia. "Our local and international patients experience the full technology benefits and first-class amenities of the Asian Hospital," Garcia said.

Schroeder agreed. "We hope to attract patients not just from the Philippines, but from the rest of the region, as we provide not just basic healthcare but also specialized care and facilities."

Modern Maturity

"What is a bad girl? It means you drink champagne and stay up all night making love. You don't steal money or ideas. You gossip, say naughty things behind people's back. But as long as people never hear what you're saying... "

So opines **Helen Gurley Brown** in the new issue of Modern Maturity.

In an interview, Brown tells MM writer, Nancy Lloyd, "Age gets all of us—but I intend to fight back (and) fighting back means you don't let age see who you are,"

New York's top society columnist **Liz Smith** says:

"For HGB, who'll always be the Cosmo girl—fighting back also means 90 minutes a day with her barbells, no smoking, no drinking, eight hours of sleep and a lot of reading. Oh, and, but of course, S-E-X."

PRETTY, PRETTY Tessa L. Ablaza with "Dean of Fashion Designers" Ben Farrales

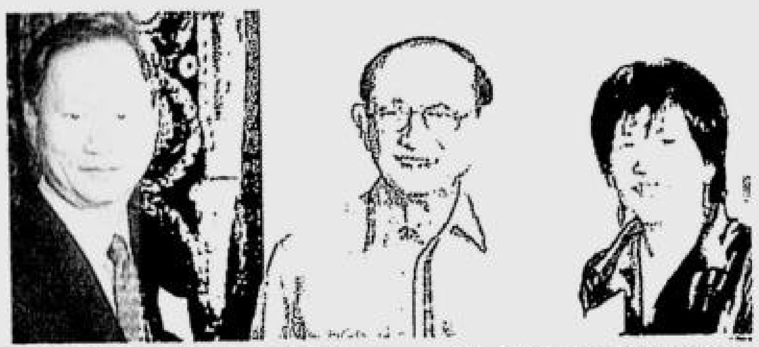
GROUP CEO Curtis Schroeder

INQUIRER publisher Isagani Yambot and founding chair Dr. Jorge Garcia

MANUEL Collantes and Charles Home

DR. ANTONIO Comia and PR man Edd Fuentes

HOTSHOTS. Samsung president and CEO Hyuck Jae Shim and Eric de Leon


BUMRUNGRAD'S chair Chai Sophonpanich, former President Fidel V. Ramos and spitfire Evelyn Lim-Forbes

DR. MICHAEL Sales-Diaz, Dr. Aina Sales-Diaz, Dr. Josephine Testa and Dr. Crispulo Ulusses Patdu III

DR. ENRIQUE Campos, top lawyer Estelito Mendoza and Dr. Susan Campos

VISIONS and Expressions' young achiever Gingay Joven de la Merced and Pen Roque

METRO Society mag's Philip Cu-Unjieng, Apa Ongpin (right) and JP Lee, Sea Chiel director

PARTY time with the Samsung gang. Liza Ilarde, top photog Raymund Isaac, Martin Nievera with cute Cutie del Mar

Tall and tan and young

From page F1

tops (the bolder ones in their bikinis and the intermittent crocheted ponchos), while the guys were in their colorful board shorts and tanks. Indeed it was total eye-candy.

The show was held at the Plazoleta in Boracay, where they unveiled the newest Pond's Antibacterial Facial Scrub TV commercial featuring the newest Pond's model Nadja Cross.

I was not exactly crazy with the dance numbers, neither am I a fan of Camille Prats, but I have to say that among all of them, she was the one who danced her heart out (and probably the only one among the lot in that portion who could dance).

Come prepared

A word to whomever is concerned (to the people who hire and to the "hirees"), for events such as these that require you to perform—especially dance numbers—it's better to come prepared; the audience, the organizers, or even the event itself (in this case, one that looked like the product of hard work from several fronts) might not always be so forgiving.

"Tall and tan and young and lovely, the girl from Ipanema…" the perfect song to describe the models that evening as they went down the ramp wearing Rustan's newest swimwear line MYNX.

Modeling swimwear has never been on the easy side. Even the thinnest or fittest models have some body issue of some sort. Going back to that bit I mentioned above, it takes preparation. Sometimes, models (or celebrities who have been hired to model) even when physically in top form are not mentally up to the task.

Take in this case one male celebrity model who, modeling a pair of board shorts—whilst shirtless—walked on the ramp as if he had dropped a stinky bomb in it; a major turn-off and a telltale sign of lack of confidence (please child, if you plan on doing this again, work on that).

On a complete about-face, you got to love Borgy Manotoc. Now, there's a kid comfortable in his own skin. Apart from his good

TALL/ F4

MODELS clad in the latest swimwear from Mynx and U

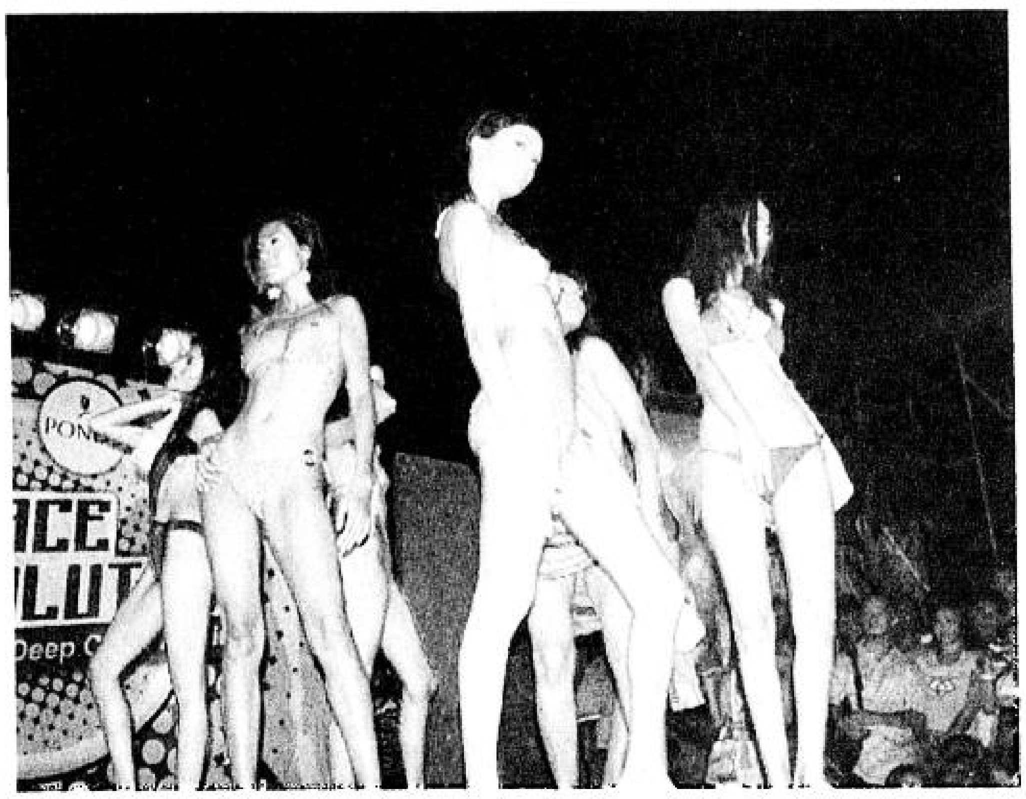
A thought from a non-reader.

A mind on the blink can be a real turn-off. If you need a bit of stimulation, try reading for a change. Just a thought.

Read more. Be more.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

THE POND'S Face Revolution booth



MODELS show that the best complement to a wonderful body and outfit is a beautifully clean face.

Tall and tan and young

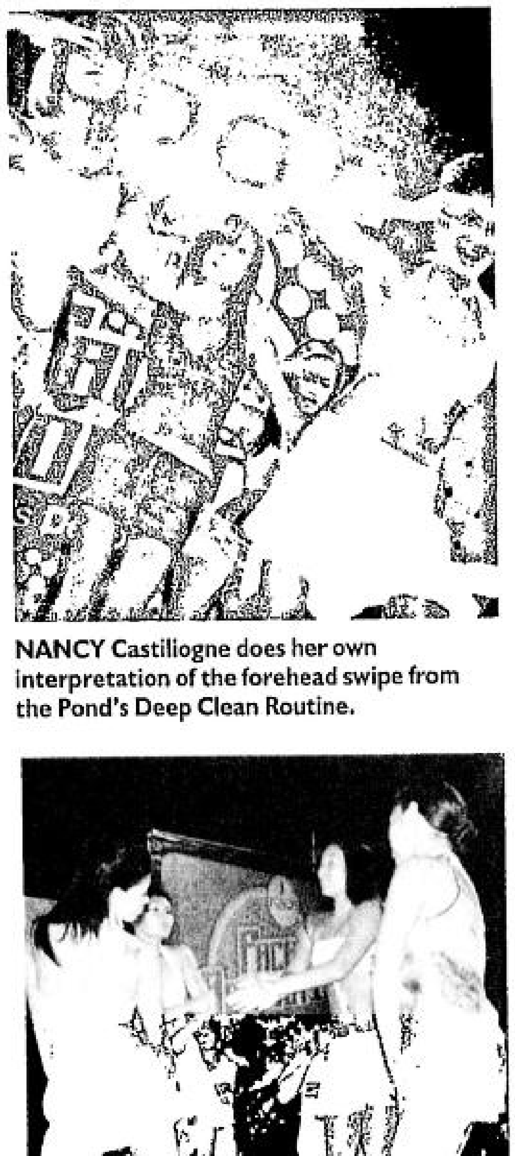
From page F3

physique, his devil-may-care aura on stage as he strutted and danced around totally wowed the crowd.

This whole extravaganza hosted by the beautiful Angel Jacob would not have been as exciting had it not been for the opening act that set the mood for the night, the exotic and awe-inspiring show called "Apoy," fire dancing by Cisco and Sean accompanied by the Tambuli Jam drummers.

Overall, the Boracay Face Revolution Beach Bash launch was a hit. Everyone seemed to have enjoyed the night from the fire dance to the fashion show. Some of us even learned how to do the Pond's deep clean routine. It's another bold move for Pond's.

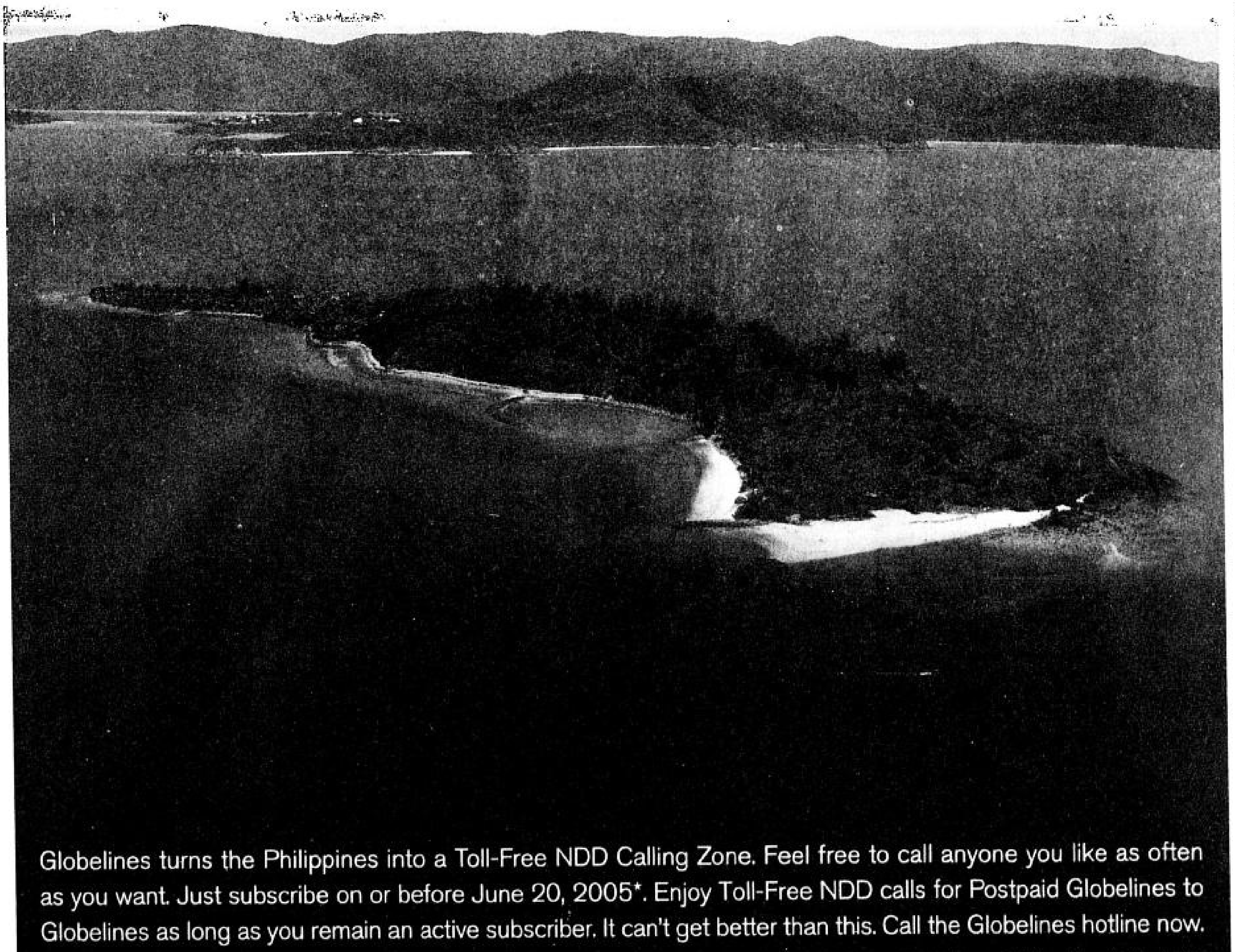
POND'S brand manager Francis Flores and host Angel Jacob



NANCY Castillogne does her own interpretation of the forehead swipe from the Pond's Deep Clean Routine.

PARTY all night

7,100 Islands
One Call Zone



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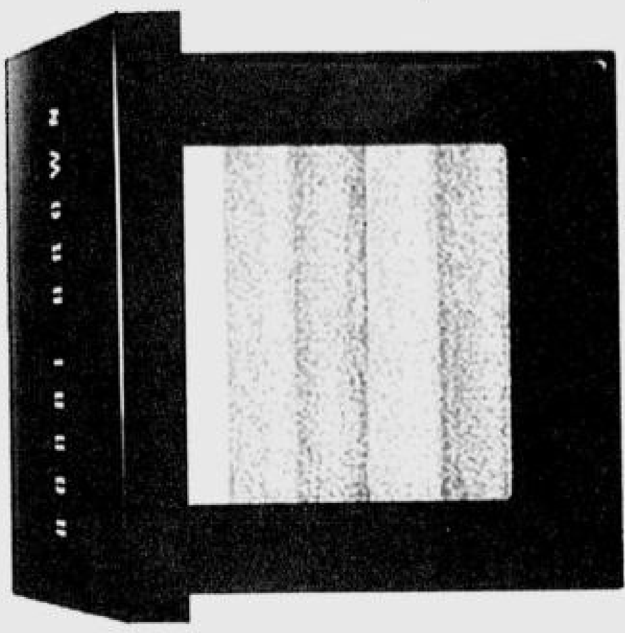
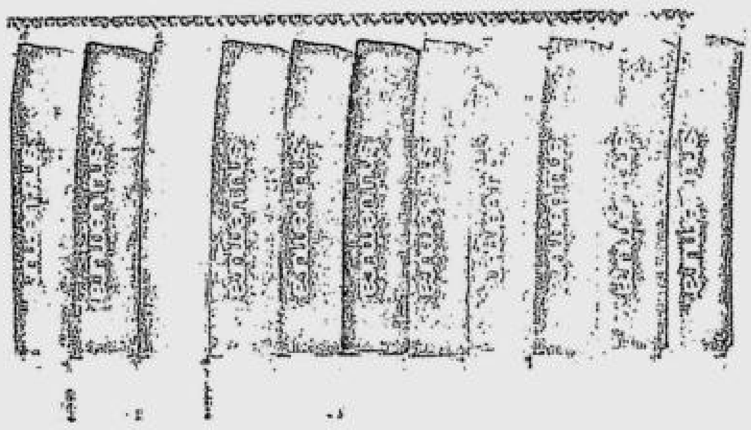


BOBBI Brown Pink Shimmer Brick

CLINIQUE Active White Loose Powder



SHU UEMURA sweet lip gloss tubes

Great beauty buys

MAKEOVER 911

Kinny Salas

SOMETIMES, a makeup line predicts that one new item will make waves, but something about the underdog appeals to me. I make it a point to look at the other new stuff and fall in love with a certain item.

Of course the star product almost always makes my eyes sparkle, but there is nothing like having something that feels like you discovered it.

Bobbi Brown

While everyone was drooling over the shimmer brick I went gaga over the Pot Rouge for Lips and Cheeks. My favorite is Pink Truffle which I feel is a truly universal shade. I went darker by two shades in foundation and this still looked really flattering on me. Friends who are lot fairer or darker than I rave about this particular product and shade as well. The texture is a non-greasy light cream texture that looks like a sexy natural flush.

There are eight other shades like powder pink for a demure effect and chocolate cherry for that sexy flush.

Practical buy: Check out their five-color eye-shadow palettes in Nudes. Definitely a good pick for me as this can be used daily. Conservative makeup shoppers will find that this is the only eye palette they will ever need for the next couple of years as it never goes

GREAT/ G4

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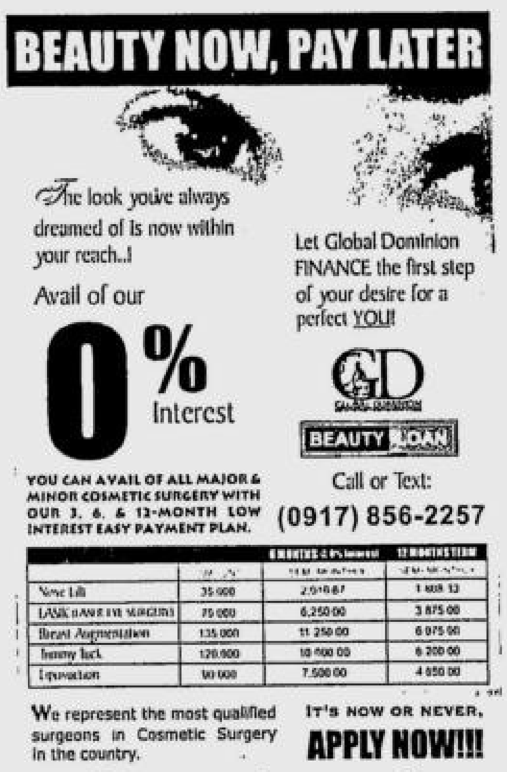

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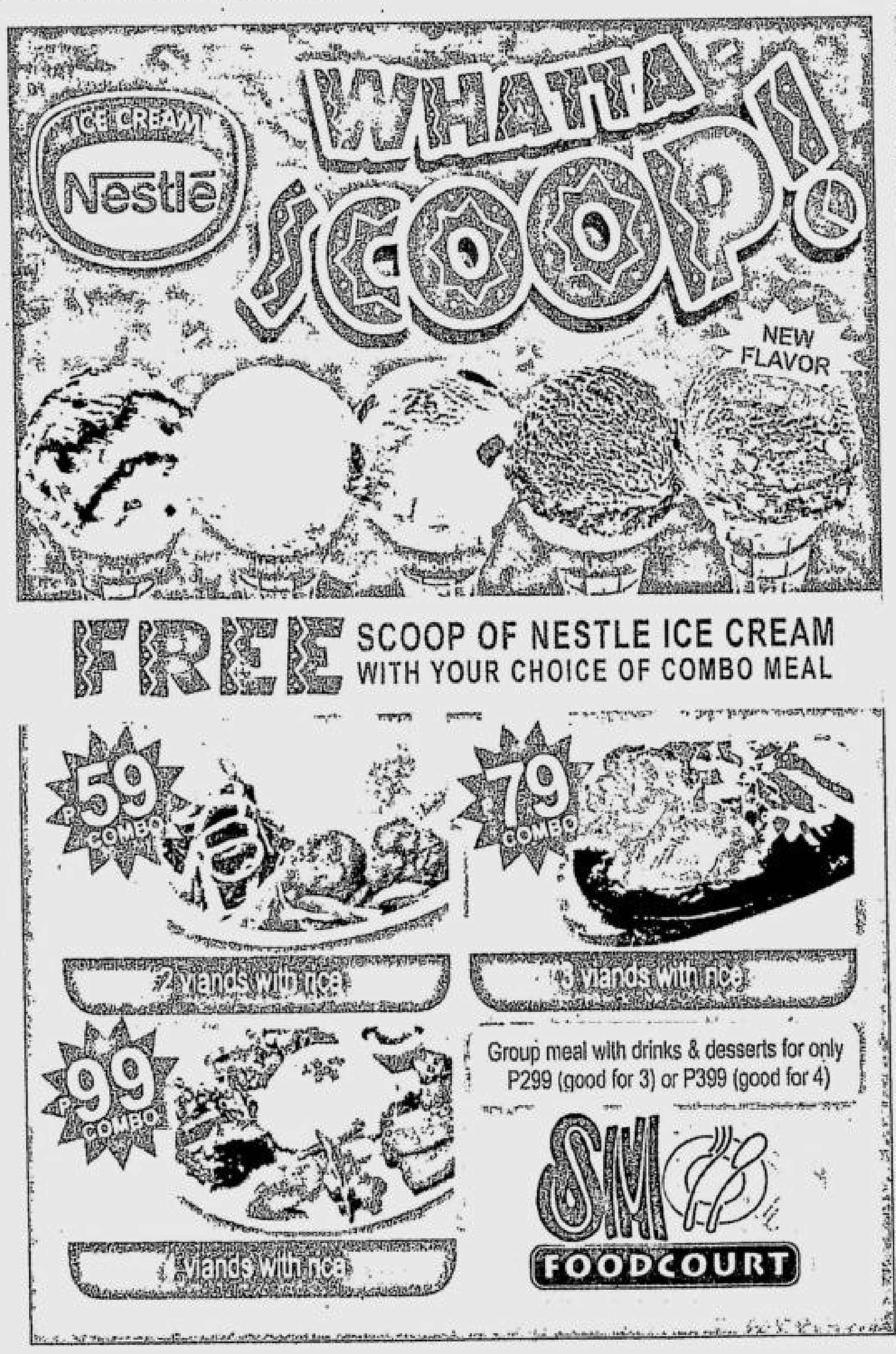

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2 viands with rice

P79 COMBO
3 viands with rice

P99 COMBO
4 viands with rice

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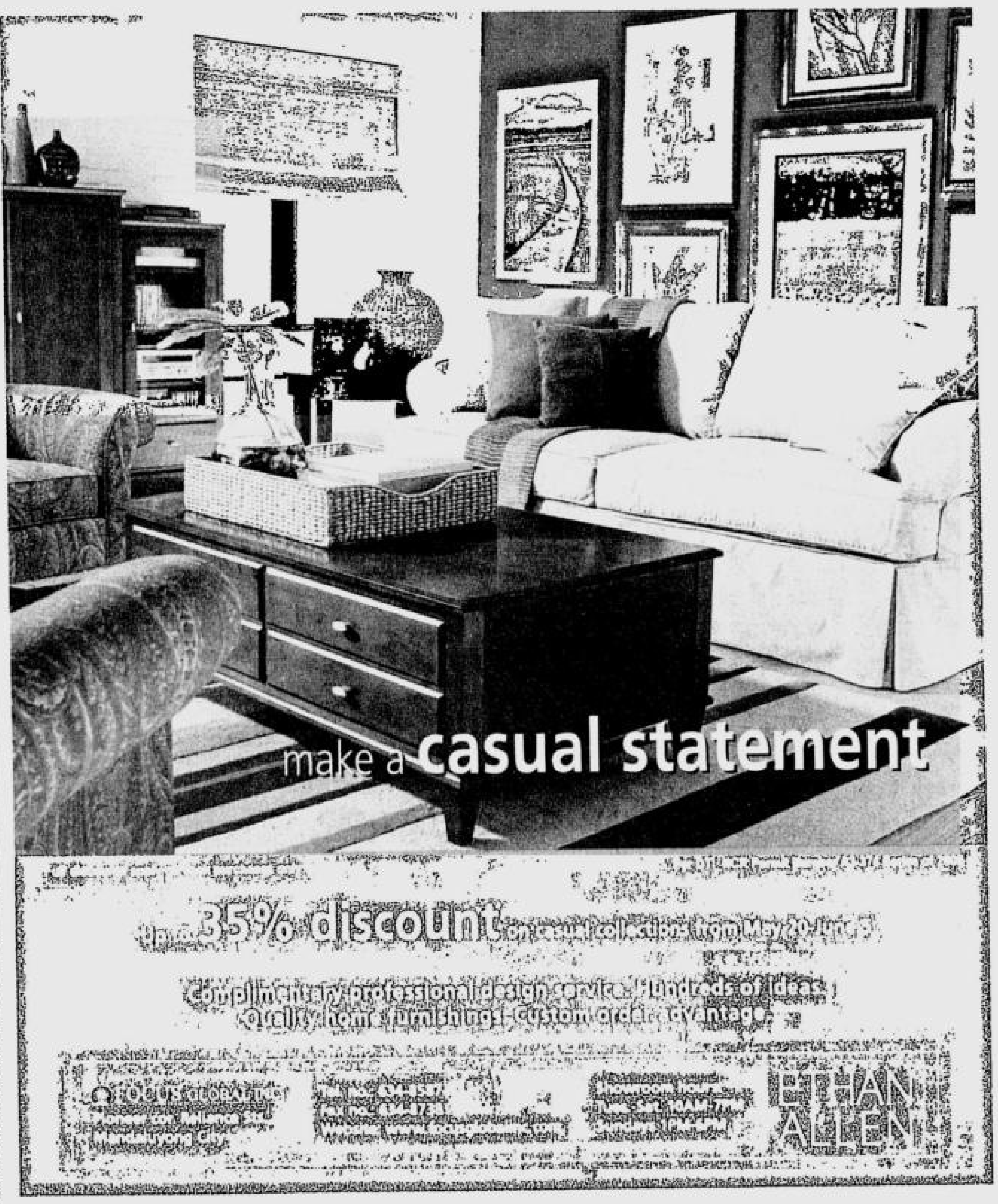

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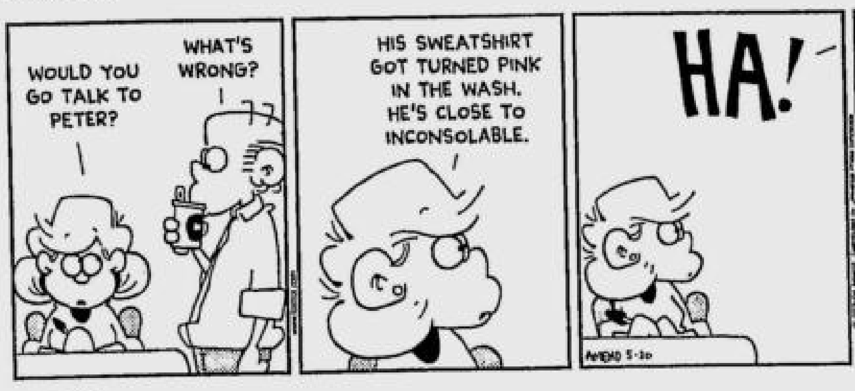
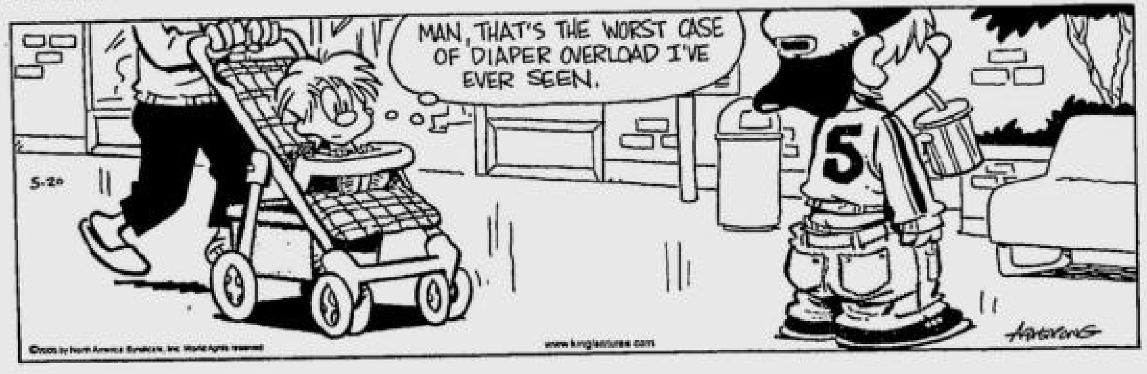
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


WOULD YOU GO TALK TO PETER?
WHAT'S WRONG?
HIS SWEATSHIRT GOT TURNED PINK IN THE WASH. HE'S CLOSE TO INCONSOLABLE.
HA!
AND NOW HE'S FULLY INCON-SOLABLE.
YOU DIDN'T WARN ME IT HAD GLITTER!
AMEND 5-20

MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


MAN, THAT'S THE WORST CASE OF DIAPER OVERLOAD I'VE EVER SEEN.
5
5-20
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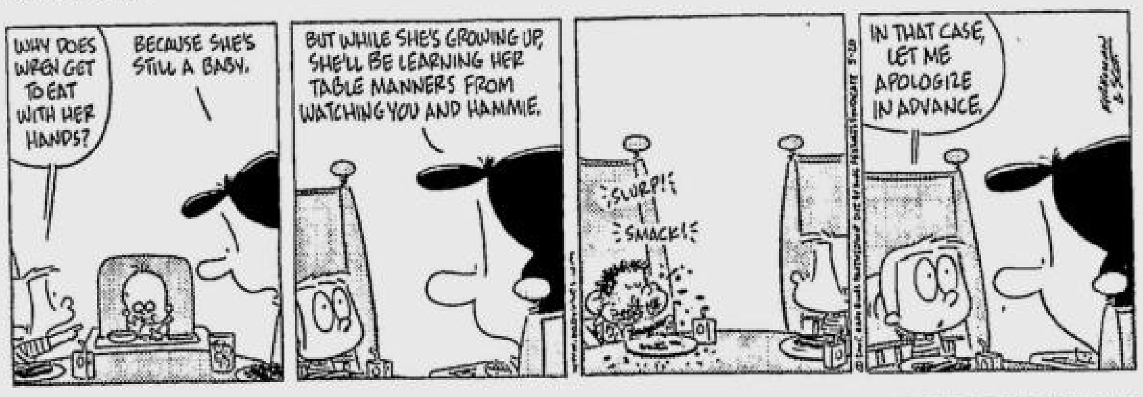
ARMSTRONG

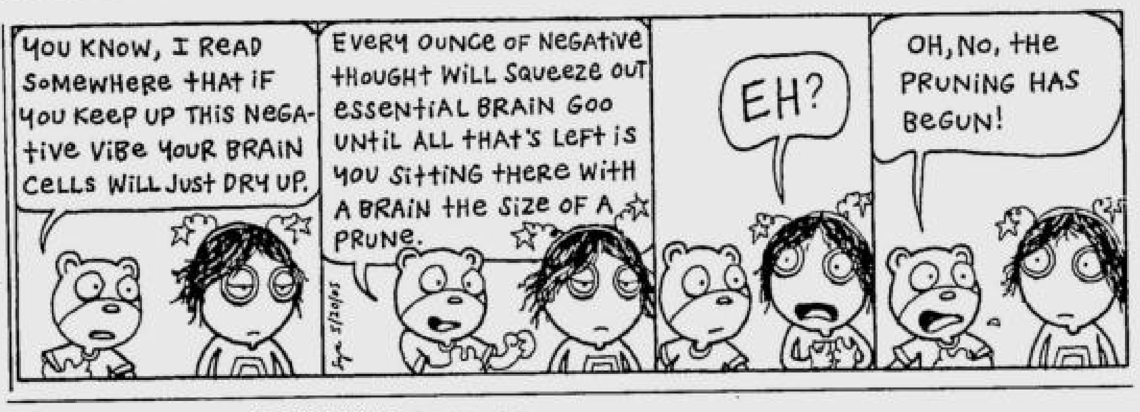
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


WHY DOES WREN GET TO EAT WITH HER HANDS?
BECAUSE SHE'S STILL A BABY.
BUT WHILE SHE'S GROWING UP, SHE'LL BE LEARNING HER TABLE MANNERS FROM WATCHING YOU AND HAMMIE.
SLURP!
SMACK!
IN THAT CASE, LET ME APOLOGIZE IN ADVANCE.

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


You know, I read somewhere that if you keep up this nega-tive vibe your brain cells will just dry up.
Every ounce of negative thought will squeeze out essential brain goo until all that's left is you sitting there with a brain the size of a prune.
EH?
Oh, no, the pruning has begun!

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're destined to share what you learn with others. (You can't resist this.) You examine and probe any subject that interests you, often jumping from subject to subject very swiftly. Your approach to life is exciting and innovative. You love excitement, change and travel. This year, however, increased solitude will help you learn something important. Birthdate of: James Stewart, actor; Cher, actress/singer; Dave Thomas, comedian.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): You're facing a busy six weeks ahead. Just accept this. You've got places to go, people to see and things to do! (Keep hustling!)

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): You're more focused on money and your possessions in the month ahead. You're shuffling through your things trying to decide what to keep and what to let go of. (You'll get a lot done.)

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Today the Sun moves into your sign, where it will stay for the next four weeks. This gives you wonderful energy! At the same time, it attracts favorable circumstances and people to you. It's your turn to recharge your batteries for the rest of the year!

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You definitely need increased solitude and privacy in the next few weeks. Hunker down somewhere and curl up into a fetal position.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Your popularity rating will soar during the next six weeks. Enjoy good times with others. Accept all invitations.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): The Sun is now at high noon in your chart. This attracts attention to you because it's like a spotlight on you. It will stay like this for about six weeks.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): You have an increasing desire to expand your world through travel and education. You want to know more, to see more and to experience more.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Your partner might earn more money in the next month. Something attracts your attention to the wealth of others and shared property.

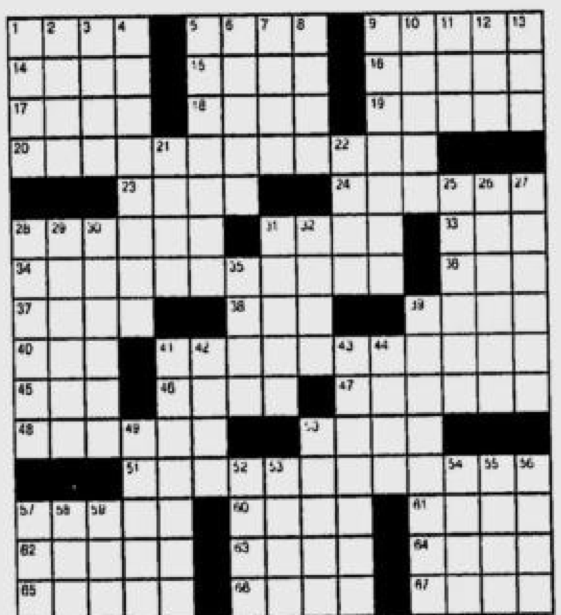
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): The Sun is now opposite your sign. This focuses your attention on partnerships and close friends. It can also make someone appear very attractive to you. (Hmmm?)

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Roll up your sleeves, because you're ready to work! In the month ahead, you've got tons of energy to organize yourself more efficiently.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): It's party city for your sign for the next six weeks. Yo! You want to have a good time. This is an excellent time to go on a vacation. The creative arts and activities with children are blessed.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Now your attention turns to home, family and real estate matters. You want improvements here. You want to solidify things so that you can feel secure about your home base.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Ronald T. Blocher
Arlington, TX

5/20/05

ACROSS
1 Fly in the ointment
5 Lantern
9 Unite
14 First-class
15 Cake decorator
16 Large African antelope
17 Singer Aimee
18 Musical group
19 Shakespeare play, '__ Andronicus'
20 Some farm dogs
23 Even scores
24 Noxious swamp gas
28 Laundry problems
31 Smart and fashionable
33 Viscous liquid
34 Track clearers?
36 Massachusetts cape
37 Lincoln and Fortes
38 Above to the Bard
39 Chills and fever
40 French king
41 Equestrians
45 Mechanical tooth
46 Mimics
47 Musical exercises
48 Fuel ingredient
50 Letters of salt
51 Toreadors
57 Silky smooth
60 '__ kleine Nachtmusik'
61 Amend a draft
62 Main artery
63 Islands off Galway
64 Incite anger
65 Grind, as teeth
66 Song or slug ending
67 Kennel sound

DOWN
1 Wanamaker and Waterston
2 Ark man
3 Dianst Frank
4 Gregor Mendel's field
5 Most supple
6 Land measures
7 Golda of Israel
8 Urge forward
9 Prosody
10 Immunoassay diagnostic
11 Squealer
12 Large African antelope
13 Wynn and Sullivan
21 __ colada
22 Qatar leader
25 Enacted
26 Fertilizer
27 'Gunsmoke' star
28 Unplentiful
29 In addition
30 'Anchors __'
31 Karpov's game
32 In this spot
35 Innermost part
39 Infidelity
41 Feast of Lights
42 German auto make
43 Chemical detection substance
44 Hankering
49 Drives the getaway car
50 Simone and Foch
52 Table insert
53 Blaze
54 Adams or Brickell
55 Streamlet
56 Stoop feature
57 Give in to gravity
58 Actor Chaney
59 Period of time

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

A	F	T	E	R	■	S	W	A	B	■	P	S	S	T
L	A	R	V	A	■	W	A	R	E	■	A	C	H	E
D	R	E	A	M	R	E	S	E	A	R	C	H	I	S
A	M	E	N	D	E	D	■	S	U	E	■	O	R	T
S	S	S	■	O	D	E	A	■	■	E	M	O	R	Y
■	■	■	A	W	O	N	D	E	R	F	U	L	■	■
A	C	O	R	N	■	■	D	E	E	■	S	I	T	E
B	U	R	G	■	F	I	E	L	D	■	S	N	I	T
E	D	D	Y	■	O	D	D	■	■	D	E	G	A	S
■	■	A	L	L	Y	O	U	D	O	I	S	■	■	■
A	D	I	E	U	■	■	P	E	P	E	■	A	L	A
S	E	N	■	M	A	I	■	C	A	T	A	L	A	N
S	L	E	E	P	F	O	R	A	L	I	V	I	N	G
E	T	R	E	■	A	N	I	L	■	N	E	C	K	S
T	A	S	K	■	R	E	D	S	■	G	R	E	A	T

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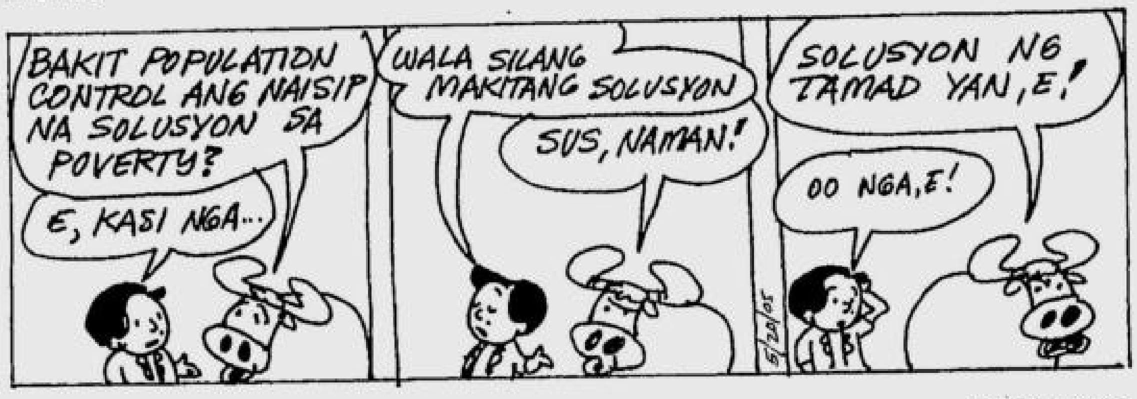
5/20/05

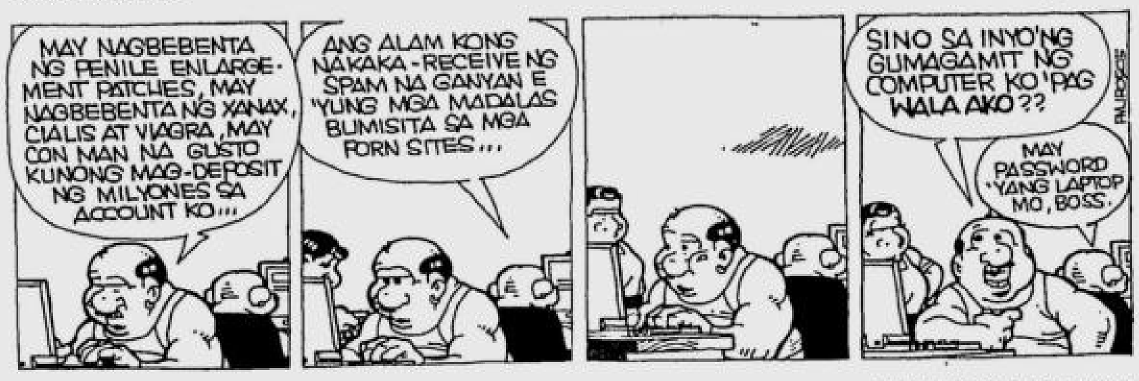
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


BAKIT POPULATION CONTROL ANG NAISIP NA SOLUSYON SA POVERTY?
E, KASI NGA...
WALA SILANG MAKITANG SOLUSYON
SUS, NAMAN!
SOLUSYON NG TAMAD YAN, E!
OO NGA, E!
5/20/05

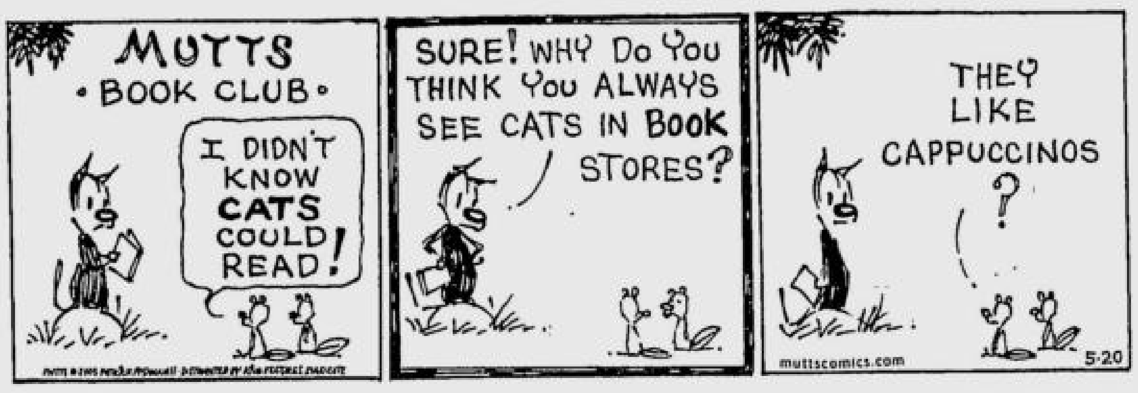
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


MAY NAGBEBENTA NG PENILE ENLARGE-MENT PATCHES, MAY NAGBEBENTA NG XANAX, CIALIS AT VIAGRA, MAY CON MAN NA GUSTO KUNONG MAG-DEPOSIT NG MILYONES SA ACCOUNT KO...
ANG ALAM KONG NAKAKA-RECEIVE NG SPAM NA GANYAN E 'YUNG MGA MADALAS BUMISITA SA MGA PORN SITES...
SINO SA INYO'NG GUMAGAMIT NG COMPUTER KO 'PAG WALA AKO??
MAY PASSWORD 'YANG LAPTOP MO, BOSS.

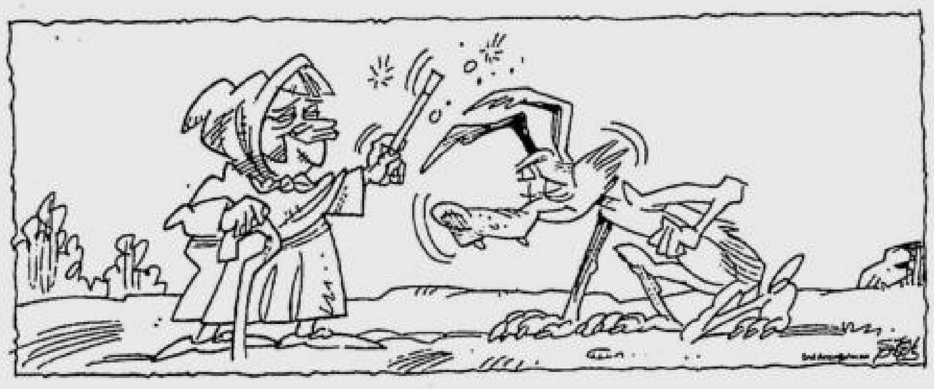
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


MUTTS • BOOK CLUB •
I DIDN'T KNOW CATS COULD READ!
SURE! WHY DO YOU THINK YOU ALWAYS SEE CATS IN BOOK STORES?
THEY LIKE CAPPUCCINOS
?
muttscomics.com
5-20

DIVINE COMEDY

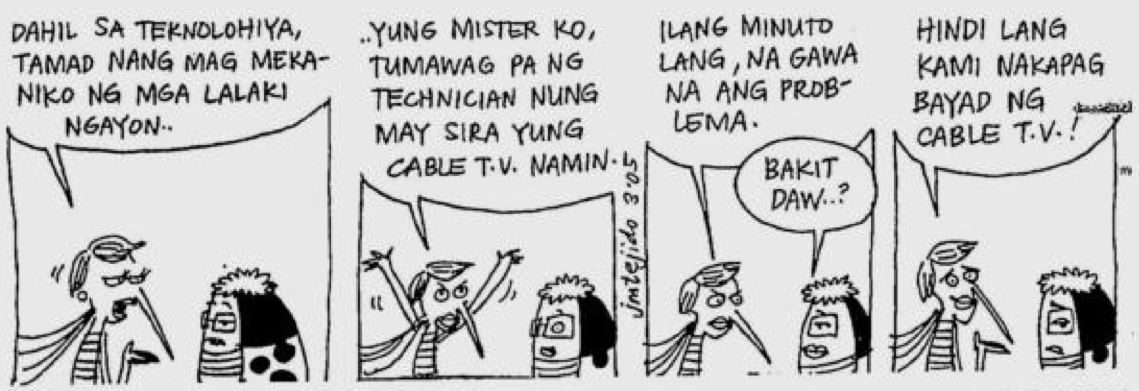
BY STEVEN PABALINAS



AFTER HELPING AN OLD LADY (WHO WAS REALLY A FAIRY) CROSS A STREET, WILE E. COYOTE WAS REWARDED IMMORTALITY

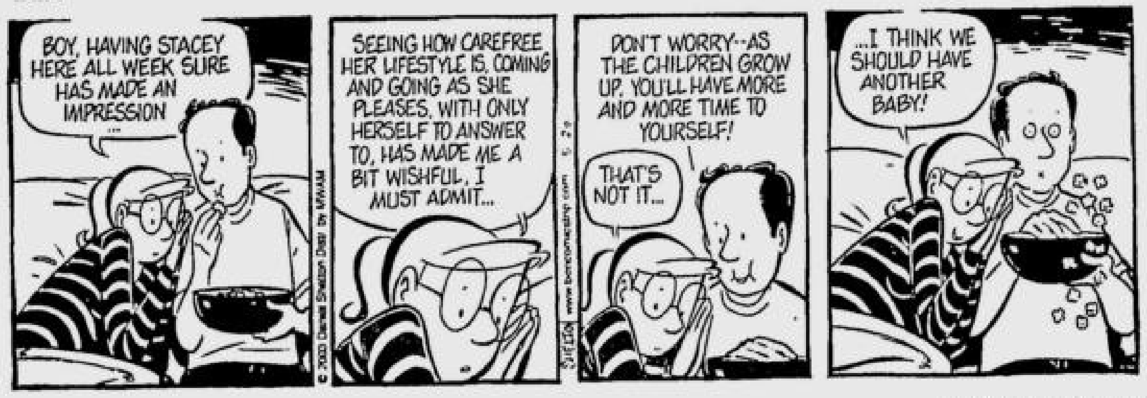
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


DAHIL SA TEKNOLOHIYA, TAMAD NANG MAG MEKA-NIKO NG MGA LALAKI NGAYON..
..YUNG MISTER KO, TUMAWAG PA NG TECHNICIAN NUNG MAY SIRA YUNG CABLE T.V. NAMIN..
jmtejido 3'05
ILANG MINUTO LANG, NA GAWA NA ANG PROB-LEMA.
BAKIT DAW..?
HINDI LANG KAMI NAKAPAG BAYAD NG CABLE T.V.!

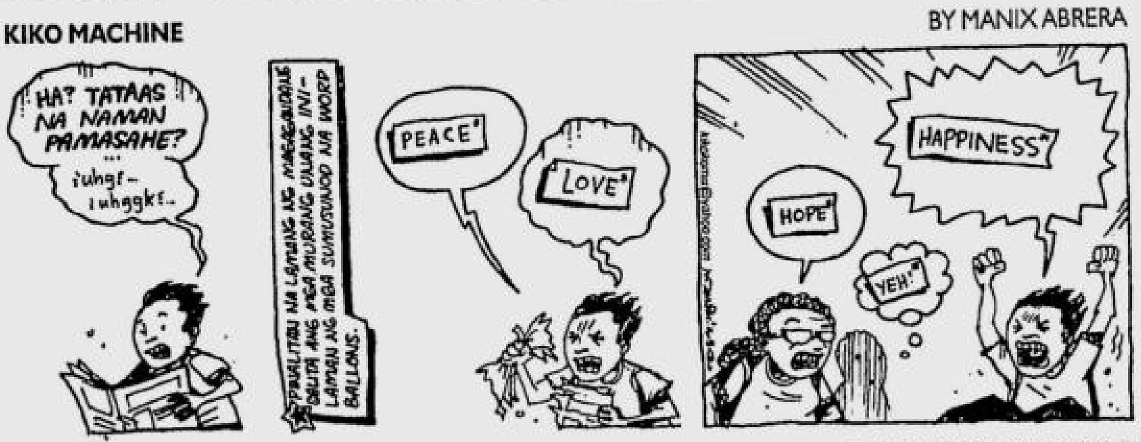
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


BOY, HAVING STACEY HERE ALL WEEK SURE HAS MADE AN IMPRESSION ...
SEEING HOW CAREFREE HER LIFESTYLE IS, COMING AND GOING AS SHE PLEASES, WITH ONLY HERSELF TO ANSWER TO, HAS MADE ME A BIT WISHFUL, I MUST ADMIT...
DON'T WORRY--AS THE CHILDREN GROW UP, YOU'LL HAVE MORE AND MORE TIME TO YOURSELF!
THAT'S NOT IT...
...I THINK WE SHOULD HAVE ANOTHER BABY!
SHELTON

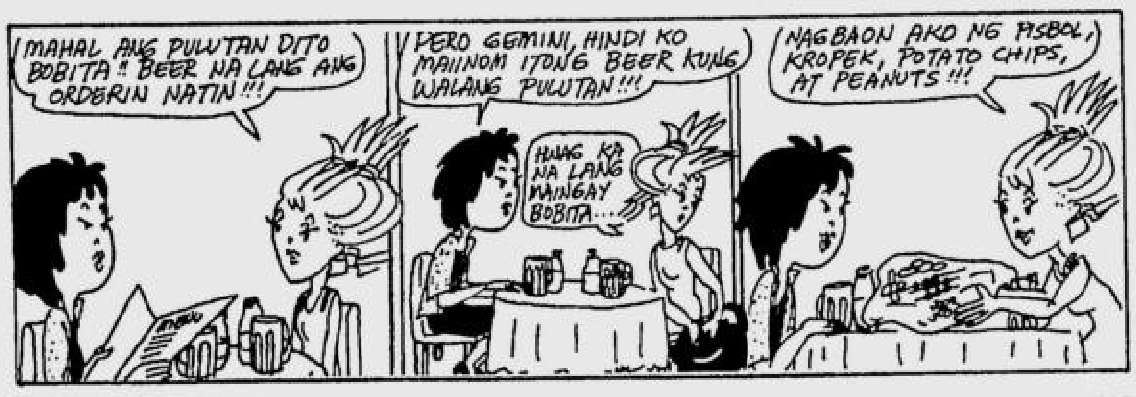
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


HA? TATAAS NA NAMAN PAMASAHE?
...
iuhgr-iuhggk..
PINALITAN NA LAMANG NG MAGAGANDANG BALITA ANG MGA MURANG ULIANG INI-LAMAN NG MGA SUMUSUNOD NA WORD BALLONS.
PEACE
LOVE
HOPE
YEH!
HAPPINESS

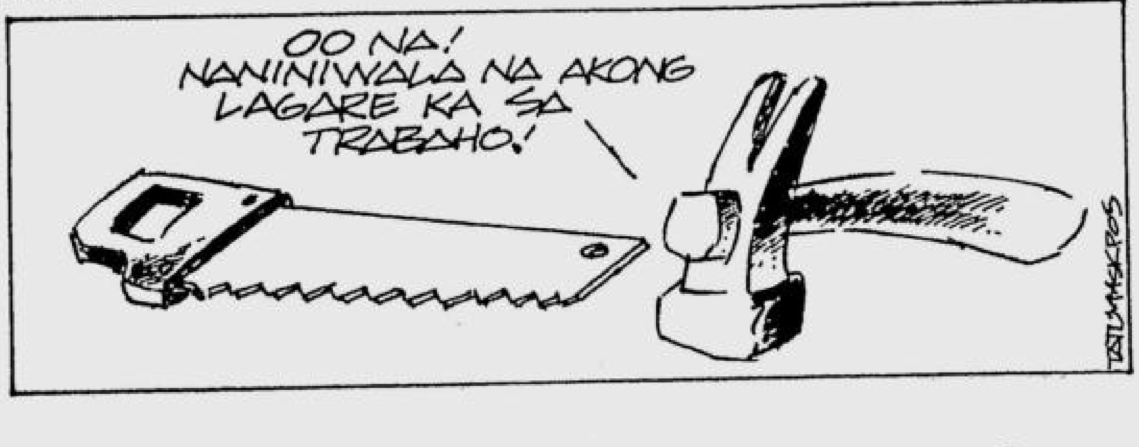
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


MAHAL ANG PULUTAN DITO BOBITA!! BEER NA LANG ANG ORDERIN NATIN!!!
PERO GEMINI, HINDI KO MAIINOM ITONG BEER KUNG WALANG PULUTAN!!!
HUWAG KA NA LANG MAINGAY BOBITA...
NAGBAON AKO NG FISBOL, KROPEK, POTATO CHIPS, AT PEANUTS!!!

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


OO NA! NANINIWALA NA AKONG LAGARE KA SA TRABAHO!

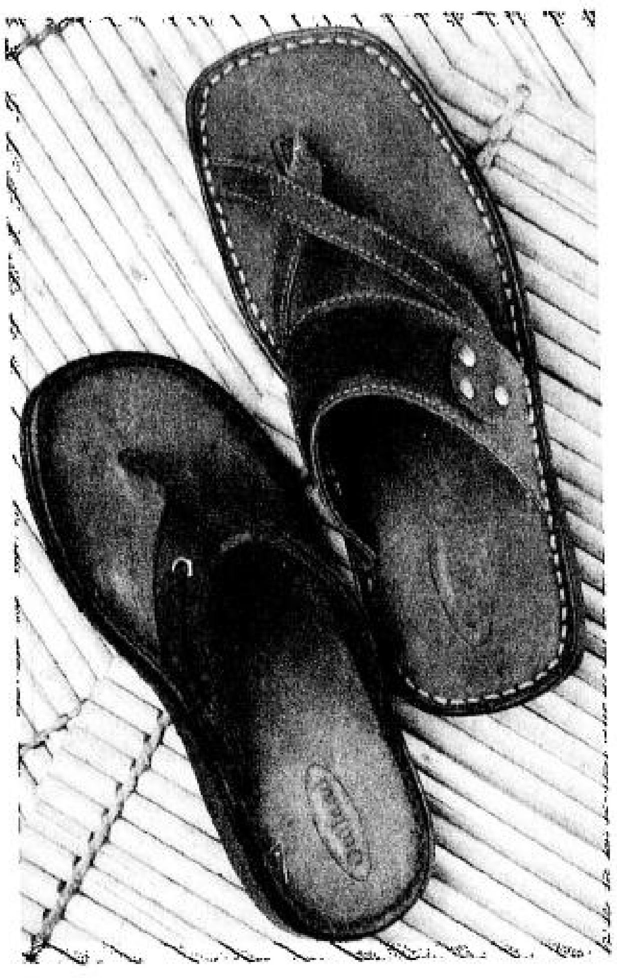
Tough, comfortable footwear

COUNTERCULTURE fashion has its fashion staples—camouflage cut-off dungarees, battered tees imprinted with offensive street poetry, some dog tags, leather cuffs and silver bling-blings. But of these, the most revered acquisition is a trusty pair of Airwalk rubbers.

Airwalk's hot style, combined with tougher-than-nails outsoles and techie-savvy footbeds and comfort-inducing cushions, has made it the brand of choice among skateboarders, BMX riders and fashion extremists.

Meanwhile, in more laidback places like beaches, clubs and malls, Outland Comfort Footwear is the dominant name. Hand-stitched, hand-sewn and hand-woven, Outland's fine craftsmanship and wide array of colors and styles gives you the right choice.

Airwalk Footwear and Outland Comfort Footwear are available at the Airwalk/Outland Boutiques in SM City North Edsa, SM City Cebu, SM Southmall, Edsa Central Mall, Greenhills Car Park 2, Market! Market!, Abanao Mall Baguio City, Robinsons Place Bacolod, Robinsons Place Iloilo, Robinsons Place Sta. Rosa, Robinsons Place Dasmariñas, Robinsons Place Lipa, Robinsons Place Metro Bacolod, Gaisanao Mall Davao, Limketkai Mall Cagayan de Oro, NE Pacific Mall Cabanatuan City and other leading shoe stores nationwide.


THONG THING. Outland leather sandals for those lazy Sunday afternoons

NO LIMITS. Airwalk shoes feature terrain-friendly outsoles and stylish upper leather designs.

ETHNIC CHIC. Hand-stitched, hand-sewn, hand-woven, Outland stakes its name on fine craftsmanship.

Sporty sole fashion

GOLA'S fashionable football shoes

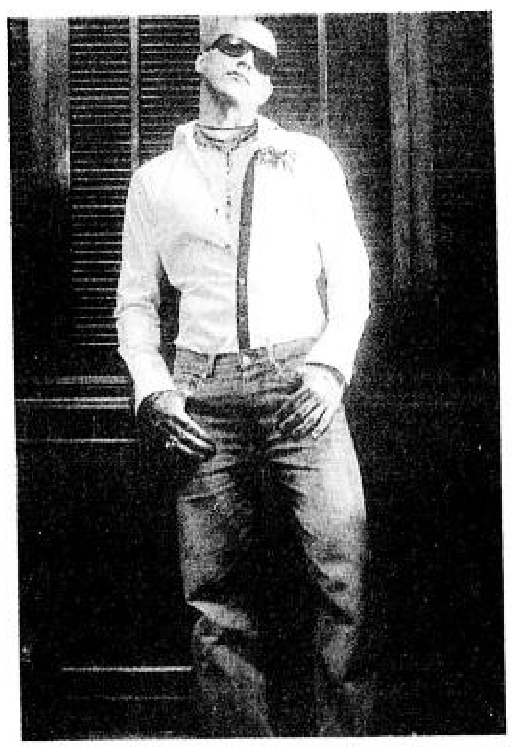
THE NAME Gola brings to mind active-wear shoes that are colorful, fashionable and uniquely football-inspired.

The strong soccer influence is not accidental. Most of Gola's hundred years of existence has been in the service of European football players, taking on giants like Adidas and still holding its own.

Gola has been associated with many prominent football figures over the years, among them the famed 1965 Liverpool team, the 1975 Manchester United team, Stan Bowles of the '70's Carlisle United team, West Hampshire's Trevor Brooking, and football legend Sir Alf Ramsay, who became a Gola board member as well as the brand's ambassador in the 1970s. In the mid-1980s, Gola also sponsored the Football Conference league, dubbing it the "Gola League."

Soccer is not the only area Gola has delved into. The brand has come out with shoes for rugby, tennis, cricket and basketball. Of late, the brand has been doubling as both a sports shoe and a casual fashion statement.

Gola shoes are available at 2B stores in SM Southmall, SM Fairview and SM North Edsa.



Casual luxury

RUSTAN'S is presenting the summer collection of Black Label Homme, Rustan's in-house menswear brand, on May 25 as part of the Manila Fashion Festival 2005.

The show will feature Black Label's take on summer clothing and casual luxury. The classic tuxedo shirt will have slimmer cuts and sharper collars, resulting in an edgier, more contemporary silhouette, while French cuffs and tone-on-tone buttons make a striking visual complement.

Pinstripes and graphically inspired shirts will allow men to suit up for formal summer encounters or dress down for more casual escapades.

Black Label's summer collection comes in whites, blacks, grays and light blues.

Black Label Homme is exclusively available at Rustan's Makati, Shangri-La Plaza, Gateway Mall and Alabang Town Center.

New league churns out future cage greats

By Nenet Galang-Pereña
Contributor

"STARSTRUCK" and " Star Circle Quest," move over. The Burlington Jr. PBA Basketball League has opened this month right after the Burlington Jr. PBA cage clinic for boys 16 years of age and below. Who knows, but this clinic-tournament might yet discover the new Patrimonios, Ildefonsos and Millers in this basketball-crazy country?

Ten teams fielded by the local governments in Metro Manila were assigned to PBA teams. They are now wearing uniform replicas of the PBA teams they picked.

Picture this: San Juan picks Sta. Lucia Realty through lottery. San Juan's players get to wear SLR jerseys. The team will also be known throughout the tournament as San Juan-SLR team.

One kid will be proudly donning Realtor Marlou Aquino's jersey No. 13, with his 14 teammates playing in venues where their PBA counterparts ply their wares.

Burlington Socks is also behind the traveling basketball clinic hosted by Norman Black, which taught the rudiments of the game in different schools and communities. It also sponsored Tuklas-Taas, the nationwide search for young talented tall athletes.

Black, a paragon of the discipline and commitment to the game, is commissioner of the league.

Sons of past and present PBA stalwarts are part of the games, such as Keiffer Isaac Ravena, son of Ginebra's Bong Ravena, and Franz Luis Pumaren, son of Franz Pumaren.

In the basketball clinic, the sons of Gherome Ejercito, Estong Ballesteros, Richard del Rosario, Chris Calaguio and Black himself dribbled with boys their age.

Showdowns

Nikko Lao of San Mateo-Talk and Text, who wears Allen Salangsang's jersey (No. 24), says he enjoys the matches. "I won't ever miss a game, not even when I am down with fever," he says.

"This is the first time in my life to set foot inside the Araneta Coliseum," confesses Beatriz Cruz, the 83-year-old grandma of Reymel Neri, who wears No. 21 of Parañaque-Red Bull.

"My grandmother is so proud to see her *apo* competing in the tournament," says Reyme.

Coach Aldrin Morante, former Tanduay player, now handling the Parañaque-Red Bull Team, is pleased that his boys were given the rare opportunity to match their wits with the best and the brightest in their age category.

Burlington is the maker of trendsetting hosiery, like the Shocks XT, with extra thick pad for super protection and ultimate comfortability. It also pioneered Biofresh, socks which inhibit bacteria formation, and are thus odorless.

"We are continuously inspired by the Filipinos' zest for a pro-active life, as manifested by their passion for sports activities, and so our research and development department strives to come up with innovative product lines like these," explains Ruddy Tan, general manager of Burlington Industries Phils. Inc., manufacturer of Burlington Socks.

For its basketball clinic, Burlington won the Catholic Mass Media Award.

THE BURLINGTON traveling basketball clinic was hosted by Norman Black.

PARAÑAQUE Red Bull vs San Mateo Talk 'N' Text

The best deal in town
Vegas Buffet
All you can eat P199
Over 40 Hot and Cold Dishes.
5:00-11:00pm nightly beginning May 20
FIESTA
at Eastridge Golf Club
10 minutes south of Ynares Center
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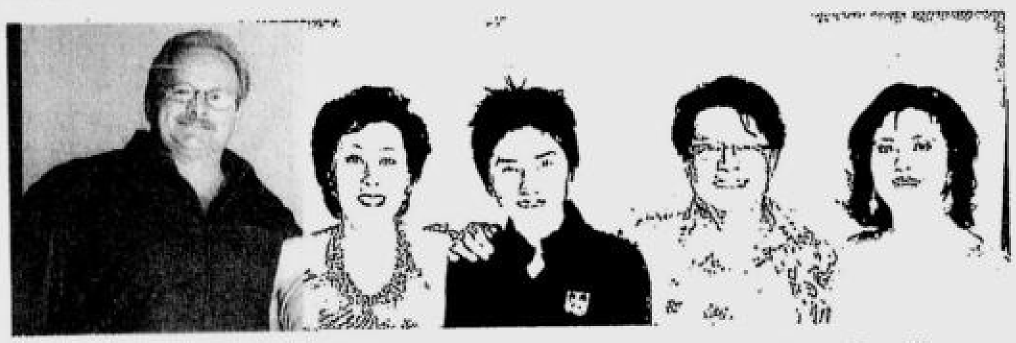
YNARES CENTER
TAYTAY
EASTRIDGE GOLF COURSE
N
W
E
S



SALON Owners and Hairdressers Association, Inc. members David Charlton of David's Salon, Linda Francisco of Piandre, Pin Antonio of Salon de Manila, Jesi Mendes of Jesi Mendes Salon and Agnes Mantolino of Regine's Salon

REGINE'S Salon's team presents versions of the gala night's themes of Being Rebellious, Being in Love and Being Naive.

PIN ANTONIO's Being Constructive interpretation emphasizes frizz and volume.

ASYMMETRIC angles and a carefully constructed cut define Jesi Mendes' Being Constructive look.

RED AND violet dominate textured and lengthy curls in Piandre Salon's take on Being in Love.

DAVID Charlton and stylist Anthony Orlando create long, flowing curls bedecked with ribbons and bows for their take on the Being Naive look.

ADDITIONAL PERFORMANCE!!! MAY 29, 8:00PM

Actor's Actors, Inc. sílang

present

ONCE ON THIS ISLAND

A MUSICAL

music by stephen flaherty
book & lyrics by lynn ahrens

STARRING: RING ANTONIO, CATHY AZANZA, MAY BAYOT, MICHAEL DE MESA, BITUIN ESCALANTE, JEFFREY HIDALGO, MENCHU LAUCHENGCO-YULO, KRISTIAN LEI, RED NUESTRO, JETT PANGAN, BODJIE PASCUA, RADHA, GALA SANCHEZ, RAKI VEGA AND MICHAEL WILLIAMS

PRODUCTION DESIGN - GINO GONZALES LIGHTING DESIGN - JOHN BATALLA
MUSICAL DIRECTION - RONY FORTICH CHOREOGRAPHY - DENISA REYES DIRECTION - BART GUINGONA

CARLOS P. ROMULO AUDITORIUM,
RCBC PLAZA, MAKATI CITY
MAY 20, 21, 26, 27, 28, 29 at 8pm: MAY 29 at 3pm

Tickets available at TICKETWORLD (891.9999)
or call SILANG COMMUNICATIONS (751.7646)

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SANCTUARIO SPA EXPOSURE LIGHTS and SOUNDS CULTURAL CENTER of the PHILIPPINES

Four new crowning glories

WELLA, international leader in hair care and hair design, has a Trend Vision program that forecasts new styles in hair fashion.

At the Wella Gala Night of the recently concluded Philippine Fashion Week, the brand presented four trends for 2005: Being Naive, Being Rebellious, Being In Love and Being Constructive. The show was a prelude to the Trend Vision Award Philippines, which will be held on July 12.

Yearly, Wella Philippines stages a national competition for local hairstylists. The winners comprise the country's official team to the International Trend Vision Award, which this year will be on Oct. 22 in London, England.

Taking center stage during the thematic gala night were the hair creations of the Salon Owners and Hairdressers Association, Inc. (Sohai). Prominent hairstylists Jesi Mendez, Linda Francisco, David Charlton, Agnes Mantolino and Pin Antonio were the leading hairstylists who showed their wares using Wella products.

Being naive

David Charlton of David's Salon, with stylist Anthony Orlando, translated the look of Being Naive into long, flowing curls intertwined with ribbons and bows to create a playful, sugar-and-spice look. Linda Francisco of Piandré Salons created a youth-inspired style using bright and rich tones of pink fused with curls that playfully plopped with every bob of the head. Agnes Mantolino of Regine's salon interpreted the look with fiery red and orange tones to complement the summer sun.

Being rebellious

Mantolino used punchy platinums mixed with red and blue tones, while Antonio mixed precision cutting and layered movement with bluish ash and greenish ash colors. Mendez, on the other hand, played up his offbeat side with an ironic mix of platinum ash blonde bases with warm, auburn highlights. Charlton played it straight with sharp layers.

Being in love

Mendez's take on Being In Love featured cascading brown and orange curls. Antonio based her romantic look on rich caramel and burgundy tones, while Francisco interpreted the look with textured and lengthy curls in opulent red and dark violet. Mantolino took inspiration from the 1940s with her glamorous upsweep coupled in surprising shades of pink and purple.

Being constructive

Mendez's interpretation was all about symmetric angles and a carefully constructed cut. Antonio modeled her look on "helmet head" where the bowl cut was interspersed with long, flowing layers sculpted from underneath. Charlton played with levels and layers, taking inspiration from construction in the architectural sense. And Francisco played with a geometric look, mixing dark brown hair and unexpected blue highlights.

The forthcoming Trend Vision Award Philippines 2005 welcomes teams composed of a stylist, an assistant and a model from different salons in the country to try their hand at interpreting any of the four Trend Vision concepts using Wella products.

The winners of the preliminary round will participate in the National Finals and the winning team will be announced during the Trend Vision Award 2005 gala night on July 12 at Makati Shangri-La Hotel.

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Great beauty buys

From page G1

out of style.

Shu Uemura

Surprisingly, it is not the lipstick that piqued my interest so I won't bother mentioning them, but the eye-shadow palette also in nude shades.

For the first time in years, this color-adventurous makeup brand has created an eye-shadow palette wherein everybody can wear all four shades! This is a good buy as Shu eye-shadows are notorious for being crease/ smear-resistant and long lasting so I use these as my eyeliner and I am smear-free for hours.

The exciting part is that they came up with four matching iridescent nude shades in nail polish as well: 329 is a sheer ecru; 929, a sheer iridescent peach; 927 is sheer coral; and 427, a pearly mocha.

I am using 329 and must point out that my usually soft, prone-to-break nails are much stronger.

For your lips, pick any of the Shu Uemura nude shades in the Lollishine line you already use or do a Kinny and slap on your Antique Rose Lip Rouge or any of the sheer Sweet Lipgloss.

For Blush, I will forever use P Red 19 or Pink 34C (for light skin only) Practical Buy: UV liquid foundation in SPF 25 PA++ has a natural matte finish that is also water-resistant and has exact shades to match one's skin. Even if you perspire a lot in this weather, the foundation keeps you looking fresh.

Clinique

The representative was there to promote the whitening product, but my heart was won over by their anti-microbial makeup brushes. They are so much more reasonably priced than the other high-end brands, but performance and elegance of appearance is downright comparable if not better.

My favorites are the eye-shadow brushes that make application like a pro effortless. A must-have is the eye contour brush which any child can handle. Eye makeup application will be a breeze after this.

Attention whitening fanatics: the whitening line will be reviewed in another article so don't e-mail me panicking. Sneak Peek favorites: Active White brightening loose powder which contains Vitamin C and uses special optics to instantly wake skin up and make it look so much smoother. It also has a cooling effect as the powders are encapsulated by water. Those of you missing the Prescriptives Magic loose powder, this is the cheaper answer to your prayers.

L'Oreal

I was invited to a nail spa appointment to try their new Platinum Nail polish line. I found myself captivated by their Sheer Cashmere foundation. The finish is such that you have a fresh matte look that looks deceptively natural. Unlike other foundations which you dot on all over the face and blend, this works on a dot-and-blend principle because it dries fast. I do not even feel the need to apply loose powder afterwards on my oily skin as it looks all set and perfect. It lasts all day but feels like nothing on. This will be my great buy suggestion as well.

Bobbi Brown, Shu Uemura and Clinique are exclusively available at Rustan's Department store. L'Oreal is available at leading department stores and drugstores.

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